



# Superintendent's Report

**To:** Unalaska City School District Board of Education

**From:** Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

**Date:** September 16, 2004

Students are now settling in to the routine that the academic year brings, which is good for students of all ages. I encourage all parents to continue to extend this academic routine into the home as well. This consistency and routine includes being on time and having excellent attendance as well as completing all homework assignments. As most folks are well aware, we do offer a number of remediation opportunities for students not making adequate yearly progress. Again, we need to have the parent's support in ensuring that these students in need do indeed participate in these remediation opportunities. I encourage parents to communicate with their child's teachers on a regular basis so that we are all working together towards the desired outcome.

Daily attendance may also enter into the educational issues for students who are not meeting the proficient levels. The State has set a target of 85% attendance as a standard for all students. I believe this goal is too low, and especially if students are not meeting the State standards. Our attendance rates are traditionally around 94%. There is a very high correlation between the students with low attendance and high tardy rates, and not making the minimal standards. We need parents' assistance in getting student in school, on time, ready for school, and participation in the various remediation opportunities when appropriate. Please do remember, UCSD's standards are higher than the State standards.

I anxiously await the final numbers and data due out from the State concerning our school and district designators. I hope to see this information out sometime next month and I do expect the news to be positive. In stating this, we will be focusing on every child making "adequate yearly progress" and we do see the urgency of closing the achievement gap and getting all of our students to achieve at higher levels. I appreciate the fact that we have so much parental and community support for reaching this goal.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Shannon at the PCR with her heading up a number of students' participation in the Youth Empowerment Summit, which concluded today. I have already heard some very positive feedback on how well the students are representing us. Barbara Thompson, Director of Teaching & Learning Support at DOE called with nothing but great accolades about our students. I am so pleased our students are great ambassadors for our community. We do have life good on this Island!!!

At this time of the year, we are all noticing that it is very dark out in the morning and is getting darker. I would encourage folks to watch for children as they are driving to school. Students can be very quick, even at that time in the morning. Let's all be careful and look out for each other.