

## **Superintendent's Report**

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

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

**Date:** August 24, 2006

I apologize as I know I probably sound like a broken record every August with this report. I like to talk about individual students making great academic strides, having great attendance and working hard. Many have heard me talk about our community's standards and expectations to be higher than the State's. (The State's numbers are due out next week.) The percentage of students in the District who are proficient in reading and writing, grades 3-10, is at 88%. The State's Annual Measurable Objective (goal) for reading and writing is 71.48%. The percentage of our students who are proficient in math, grades 3-10, is at 78%. The State's AMO for math is at 57.61%.

The State considers "Safe Harbor Thresholds" in measuring AYP stuffs, for the attendance rate at 85% and the graduation rate at 55.58%. Our attendance rate for last year was at 94%. Our graduation rate for last year was 100% and the previous year was 96%. Next week I expect more information concerning AYP and State and District Level numbers. We are required to share this information in a local "report card, which should offer a good comparison to other districts and the State when more information is available.

In the end, Adequate Yearly Progress, AYP, don't mean diddly unless your child is making it. If parents don't remember the Standards Based Assessment results of last spring, please contact the teacher of your child, or give me a call. Routines are very important and it is also important to restart those routines early in the school year. This includes getting enough sleep, getting to school on time and ready to learn. These routines also include good attendance on a very regular basis and putting a good effort into completing homework assignments. We see a few elementary students who are consistently late in the morning. Missing the first hour of school also means the child is probably missing a big chunk of direct reading instruction.

The effort to start or restart these routines is, sometimes difficult for some children, especially older students. I have always found it is well worth the battle to start students of all ages on the right track with good habits. Please do talk to the teacher of your child if there is anything we can do to support you in this effort. The District will again be offering a number of remediation opportunities. We do need your support in getting the students to these sessions in efforts to increase their academic abilities.

Again, we do not teach to the test, but to our curricula. No matter what folks think about NCLB, we would hope that all students read, write, and are able to do math at their grade level in our schools. Please do give a shout or stop by if you have any questions or concerns about your child.

With school starting, we have many students walking and riding their bike, and especially with the bridge being out in the Valley, I would like to ask those who drive to please slow down. Thanks much!!

I am looking forward to another fun and great year!!!!