

# Superintendent's Report

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

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

**Date:** September 21, 2006

This time of year, I like to discuss how students of all ages are hopefully starting to settle into their individual routines. I know of many Kindergarten and Junior High teachers who look forward to the fortieth school day as most students should get to that point by this time. A healthy routine involves getting enough sleep, taking care of one's self, (diet & exercise) and a consistent homework and study schedule. Attendance is also very important and a big part of a good routine. The State's goal for attendance is 85% and our attendance has consistently been at approximately 94%. I am sure everyone understands that there is a very high correlation between success in school and attendance. Being tardy for classes hurts students, especially elementary age students, as core curricula areas are most often addressed in the morning.

Tonight we will roll out our 2005-06 District Report Card. Along with this being available at each school office, it will also be at our website: [www.ucsd.net](http://www.ucsd.net). Although we are required to compare ourselves to the State in many different areas of the student assessment results, and to include a report for the past two years of testing, the only important comparison is each individual student's growth over the last two years. As I have said on numerous occasions, "AYP don't mean diddly" unless your son and/or daughter are/is making Adequate Yearly Progress. I encourage parents to go through the test scores of the past two years with teachers to see if there are areas where we can work together to remediate. We have started up our remediation opportunities for students.

With the two years of data, utilizing the same testing instrument and comparing apples to apples, we should also be able to look at strengths and weaknesses of our core curricula. Again, Unalaska City School District is fortunate as we have not had to change our way of doing things as we have been successful. In short, we teach our curricula, not teaching to the test as some districts are having to do.

There have been some concerns voiced about our projected enrollment numbers. I do not expect to meet the number that our FY 07 Budget was built on, yet I do want to remind folks there was some one time funding added from the Legislators. This will soften the impact of a lower enrollment figure.

Finally, we are gearing up to start our Drivers Education Program. I want to thank Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Conwell, Mr. Haskins and Mr. Wilson for bringing this to a point to where we can start in the near future!!! Please do let us know if you are interested in this for your child. Cost will be about \$375.