

# **Superintendent's Report**

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

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

**Date:** April 26, 2007

I want to start off with another big "THANKS" to the students and parents of the community for their efforts in getting all students to school during the State Testing days earlier this month. As we all have heard, there are thirty-one ways not to make Adequate Yearly Progress, and not having 95% of our students tested in all of the subgroups is one of these ways!!! The results of the tests should be back sometime in May and we do notify students about their Exit Exam Scores as soon as we receive these scores, normally electronically. There is plenty wrong with the whole NCLB thing, but I think we all have to agree that having the expectation that children will be at grade level for reading, writing and math is a good thing.

I also want to thank the members of the City Council for their continued support and positive reception to our Budget Presentation earlier this month. We are truly blessed in this community with all of the support, and high expectations. As I have said, there have been many folks through the years who have made Unalaska a great place to raise kids. I am pleased with the success of our educational system, and happy we are able to show accountability through our students. I am most appreciative of the hard work of our faculty & staff over the past few years in their curricula development and teaching methodology. Our student population and their needs continue to change and they have done an excellent job in changes needed to deliver services. Our ESL population continues to grow yet there has been no noticeable variation to our test data.

This is the time of the year I take the opportunity to encourage all students to finish up strong. With the end of the academic year in sight and daylight savings time, it is easy to get distracted and focus on other activities. This is also the time when some students run into a problem with the number of allowed absences, with a concern of losing credit. There is still plenty of learning time left and we all need to encourage our students of all ages to remain focused on our educational goals.

We will have Summer School this summer and I am hopeful that that parents are the ones that are making the decision for their children to participate or not. Again, in the end, the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) doesn't mean much if your child is not making it.

There are only a few weeks left of the Legislative Session, as they are scheduled to finish on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We must continue to send the message of the needs of education and stay vigilant until the very end. I commend AASB for what movement we have seen this week in educational funding.