

Superintendent's Report

To: Unalaska City School District Board of Education

From: Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent

Date: March 29, 2007

Next week we will begin our participation in the statewide testing cycle for grades 3 through 10. These are the tests that determine our Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act. Please remember that there are thirty-one ways that schools can or cannot meet AYP and one of these is in our participation rate, meaning ninety-five percent of our students must be tested in each subgroup. There are no make-ups for the Exit Exam and students must be on time. Those students who are absent or late will lose an opportunity to take the Exit Exam, and please remember in order to receive a high school diploma, one must pass all three portions of the Exit Exam. Once again, I am happy to announce that all of our seniors scheduled to graduate this spring, will do so with a High School Diploma, if they complete the local graduation requirements.

We are also looking at the possibility of having some type of remedial summer program again this year. I wait for the numbers, grades, and whether students will be on the Island during the summer break. This remedial program may just include consumables for parents to work with their child or if there are available funds, we would hope to have a twenty-five day summer school session. I would like to remind folks that summer school is by "invitation only." I would hope parents are the ones making the decisions for their child to attend and add this topic on their list to cover during parent-teacher conferences. I appreciate the teachers who have expressed an interest in teaching this summer.

Although things in Juneau have been slow up to this week, educational issues are now being discussed and moved. My understanding is Senate Bill 1, by Senator Wilken, moved from Senate Education yesterday, without committee discussion or public testimony, which should be seen as a good thing. I understand these now moves on to Senate Community and Regional Affairs and then on to Senate Finance. I still suspect the educational funding level will not be set until the end of the session. HB 72, dealing with updating the Area Cost Differentials is still being held in House Finance. By the actions and discussions of yesterday, you can see that so much is still up in the air to even come close to making a predication of where our revenues will be at over the next six weeks. I very much appreciate Adam Berg in Representative Bryce Edgmon's Office as he has been super about keeping us updated with issues regarding education. He doesn't always tell me what I want to hear, but I know it is as good as it gets.