



Anchorage School District Males of Color Pledge

Actions and Measures

2015-16

Pledge:

- 1. Anchorage School District pledges to ensure that its preschool efforts better serve Males of Color and their academic and social development.**

Actions:

- Target students with highest needs (including considerations of socio-economic status, children in transition and single parent homes)
- Maintain class size of 16 students (two spots specifically reserved for children in transition)
- Provide gender balance through the lottery process
- Collaborate with Kids Corps/Head Start to provide preschool services
- Collaborate on kindergarten readiness with 90% by 2020 and Anchorage Realizing Indigenous Student Excellence (ARISE) community coalitions, along with other community providers

Measures:

- AIMSweb Math and Reading Assessments
- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test
- Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment



Pledge:

- 2. Anchorage School District will adopt and implement elementary and middle school efforts to increase the pipeline of Males of Color who are succeeding academically and socially in our urban schools and who are on track to succeed in high school.**

Actions - Elementary:

- Provide access to school counselors and extra staff for school day, before- and after-school interventions, and tutoring through Title I, Title VII, and South Central Foundation
- Provide classes for students of color through Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)
- Programs offered through lottery balanced by gender
- Continue providing 21st Century Community Learning Center after school programs, including Legos and Robotics
- In partnership with CITC, support second order change through work on adult SEL skills and culturally responsive teaching practices at Wendler Middle School and Hanshew Middle School

Actions – Middle School:

- Utilize Core Team planning to support success of individual students
- Continue partnership with Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) for middle level academies
- Provide pre-Advanced Placement College Board Training for middle school teachers at ASD Summer Academy

- d. Provide CITC classes, programs, and interventions for students of color
- e. Provide professional development specifically focused on middle school math through Title VII
- f. Continue providing 21st Century Community Learning Center after school programs, including Legos and Robotics
- g. Provide SEL and Culturally Responsive Practices Coordinator in two middle schools
- h. Continue Alaska Heritage Center's after school program

Measures:

- a. ASD Student Activity Survey
- b. Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- c. AIMSweb, MAP, and Language! Assessments
- d. Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS 2.0) for English Language Learners (ELL),
- e. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—(every other year for 5th and 7th grades), and alternative assessments
- f. Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Mini
- g. Climate and Connectedness Survey
- h. Students “On Track”
- i. Quarterly Attendance Report

Pledge:

- 3. Anchorage School District will collect and analyze data and establish protocols to monitor the progress of Males of Color and other students in our schools and appropriately intervene at the earliest warning signs.**

Actions:

- a. Continue implementation of Response to Instruction (RTI) universal screening and progress monitoring for all K-8 students
- b. Implement social and emotional learning (SEL) measurement for middle school students
- c. Focus on students identified as “at risk,” especially when transitioning

Measures:

- a. AIMSweb and MAP Assessments
- b. DESSA Mini
- c. Students “On Track”
- d. Quarterly Attendance Report

Pledge:

- 4. Anchorage School District will adopt and implement promising and proven approaches to reducing absenteeism, especially chronic absenteeism, among Males of Color.**

Actions:

- a. Continuation of attendance policy implementation
- b. Phone calls made to student homes for absences
- c. Continuation of School Business Partner attendance recognition

Measures:

- a. Quarterly Attendance Report
- b. Climate and Connectedness Survey

Pledge:

5. Anchorage School District will develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in retaining Males of Color in school and reducing disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates.

Actions:

- a. Implementation of new drug/alcohol policy for reducing suspensions and eliminating expulsions through alternative placement, with a focus on education and critical thinking skills
- b. Implementation of Social Emotional Learning RTI Framework
- c. Annual and quarterly suspension reports

Measures:

- a. Annual Suspension Report
- b. Quarterly Suspension Reports

Pledge:

6. Anchorage School District will develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in increasing the numbers of our Males of Color and other students participating in advanced placement and honors courses and gifted and talented programs.

Actions:

- a. Continued focus on recruitment of underrepresented students and schools (different criteria for Title I and military schools) for Including Gifted Needs in Today's Education (IGNITE) gifted program
- b. Intentional middle school core team planning and focus on data analysis to provide interventions and identification of students with potential for honors and AP courses in high school, and encouragement to pursue
- c. Provide nationally advertised College Board Advanced Placement training and professional development in Anchorage for approximately 300 secondary teachers, as well as College Board Advanced Placement training and professional development in science, math and English language arts for an additional 80 secondary teachers
- d. Continue National Science and Math Initiative (NMSI) grant at Bartlett and Eagle River high schools, supporting professional development of AP teachers, offerings of AP classes, and tutoring for students in AP classes, with the goals of increasing the number of students who have not typically taken AP or honors classes, increasing student success in college level classes that will lead to STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), and increasing the number of students who are successful in AP classes and on the AP exam
- e. Provide Pre-Advanced Placement College Board Training for middle school teachers at the ASD Summer Academy
- f. Promotion of Alaska Performance Scholarship, and scheduling students accordingly by counselors and administrators
- g. Promotion of academic and social skills success and planning by Career and Technical Education/ Counseling Coordinator
- h. Continuation of TRIO Educational Talent Search program in three of ASD's most diverse high schools to encourage academic rigor, success, and college applications
- i. Continue partnership with Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's College and Career Advising Corp to provide College and Career Guides at three high schools

Measures:

- a. Annual AP Test Report
- b. Annual National Student Clearinghouse data
- c. Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Report

Pledge:

7. Anchorage School District will strongly encourage colleges of education to adopt curriculum that addresses the academic, cultural, and social needs of Males of Color.

Actions:

- a. Participation in Education Matters Summit held in May 2014 (focus on improving teacher prep programs)
- b. Continue ongoing meetings with University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and Alaska Pacific University (APU) on programs and curriculum
- c. Continuation of counselors working with students on UAA dual credit opportunities
- d. Partnership with ANSEP in conjunction with UAA

Pledge:

8. Anchorage School District will develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in increasing the numbers of Males of Color and other students who complete the FAFSA.

Actions:

- a. Continue to conduct ELL workshop for families
- b. Continue to conduct Title VII (American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education) workshops for families
- c. Continue promotion of FAFSA by TRIO's Educational Talent Search program in three high schools
- d. Provide support through CTE/Counseling Coordinator
- e. Postsecondary College and Career Guides promoting FAFSA completion in three high schools

Measure:

- a. Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Report

Pledge:

9. Anchorage School District will work to reduce as appropriate the disproportionate numbers of Males of Color in special education courses.

Actions/Information:

- a. Schools and district looking closely at disaggregated data to inform instructional decisions
- b. ASD Special Education Department incorporating RTI data and interventions for individual students

Measure:

- a. ASD IEP data

Pledge:

10. Anchorage School District will work to transform high schools with persistently low graduation rates among Males of Color and others and to provide literacy and engagement initiatives with parents.

Actions:

- a. Host parent meetings through TRIO program at three high schools
- b. Provide Postsecondary College and Career Guides at three high schools
- c. Conduct regular parent meetings and classes through ELL Department
- d. Conduct refugee parent classes in conjunction with Catholic Social Services
- e. Hold parent meetings and events through Title VII federal grant
- f. Continue to solicit and address concerns from the Native Advisory Committee (NAC) regarding issues pertaining to the success of Alaska Native and American Indian students
- g. Hold Project Puqigtut Smart Sessions with Alaska Native and American Indian students and parents
- h. Continue/expand implementation of Freshman Houses, Academies, and Smaller Learning Communities, and their respective administrators, counselors, and teacher conferences, to personalize and focus on the individual educational experience and needs of students
- i. Continue implementation of creative SEL programs
- j. Focus professional development on instructional framework, including student engagement

Measures:

- a. Annual Graduation Rate
- b. Climate and Connectedness Survey

Pledge:

- 11. Anchorage School District will engage in a broader discussion and examination of how issues of race, language, and culture affect the work of our district.**

Actions:

- a. Collaborating, partnering, and working with:
 1. Multicultural Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC)
 2. ASD Native Advisory Committee (NAC)
 3. Title I family groups
 4. ARISE
 5. United Way: 90% by 2020
 6. United Way: PLUS Schools
 7. United Way: Anchorage Coalition
 8. Big Brothers Big Sisters
 9. South Central Foundation
 10. Kids Corps/Head Start
 11. Thread and Best Beginnings (statewide networks for early care and education services)
 12. Salvation Army
 13. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)
 14. UAA

Note: ASD holds over 100 memorandums of agreement with community agencies

