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September CCSD School Board Report

PACE Statewide Correspondence Homeschool - Submitted by Josh Andrews

Enrollment: As of Friday, September 13, there were 290 students enrolled (282.5 FTE). There were 135 enrollments still being processed. This is down significantly from what was reported last year: 471 enrolled and 460 FTE. I cannot speak to the accuracy of those numbers.

Staff are working hard to get the majority of enrollments completed before September 30 in order to ensure full funding and allotment access for each student and family. It is good to see that most of our homeschool students are full time - it reflects well on the program and our PACE staff.

Migration: I have been working with MBA (a PowerSchool plug-in specialist) on creating customized plugins that will meet our needs for tracking allotments and creating SLPs in PowerSchool. MBA believes they can meet our needs. I have discussed this with staff who are receptive to the migration, but justifiably concerned about the timing. I am also coordinating with Kyle Schneider and have told him that we are interested in migrating as his schedule allows. It is now a matter of each of the pieces being created, installed, and tested.

Workflow: As I learn more about the workings of PACE, the staff and I are working to identify bottlenecks and brainstorm ideas to help streamline our entire process. There have been some changes within homeschool legislation and I have spent a lot of time reviewing statute and the associated codes to ensure we are operating within legal parameters. Some past assumptions do not bear out upon further examination - specifically past practice of dropping families who are out of contact for more than a month and those who are failing classes. While that isn't encouraged, we have revised our internal policy so now the principal is the only staff with the authority to initiate dropping a student or family. The November PACE inservice will be focused on reviewing workflow from enrollment through graduation and creating a flowchart that will help everyone understand who needs to do what when. It will also help us to further brainstorm ways to streamline our enrollment process.

Revisions: The handbook was revised last February but will require additional revisions before the end of the year. It is my goal to start offering revision language to staff for review well before it is submitted to the board for approval. The staff has been working with this program much longer than I have and it is important that they have time to consider changes, offer feedback, and finalize wording.

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Staffing: We currently are operating three learning centers: Anchorage, Matsu, and Craig. The Anchorage center has by far the largest enrollment and is staffed by two contact teachers, Mikal Sparkman and Kimberly McMillan, our special education teacher, Bobbi Duerkson, and our part time administrative assistant, Sonia Traver. Our full time admin assistant, Bobbi Cotton, works with contact teacher Cassie Kinsland in our Matsu office. As the full time AA, Bobbi is our “lead” AA and is tasked with completing all purchase requests from both Matsu and Anchorage and for providing overall organizational strategies weekly for both AAs. Robert Jeffrey rounds up the staff and is working out of CHS at the Craig Learning Center. Part of his assignment is to support Ms. House as our PACE testing coordinator. He has already begun the process of enrolling students for the fall MAP testing session and DIBELS, and is reviewing the logistics of providing testing for students remotely around the state.

Dual Enrollment considerations: I have had several conversations with Ms Hanson regarding dual enrollment. There is nothing in our current handbook that limits the number of courses a student can take from a brick and mortar school and then sign up with PACE. The way the state funds dual-enrolled students is 25% per course or per hour of school. As an example, a student who has 4 HS or MS courses at a brick and mortar school is considered 100% FTE at that school. Brick and mortar get preferential funding so any student who signs up for PACE in this situation would generate \$0. We are considering a cap of 2 credits/hours for any student who is interested in dual enrollment with PACE. However, if you note the enrollment numbers, we have very few students who fall in the dual enrollment category.

Graduations: Congratulations to Clark Sawyer, who received his diploma August 1, 2025. Because he graduated a year early, he was not included in the UA Scholars consideration. When I reviewed his transcript, he had a 4.0 and was well within the upper 10% of his graduating class. I reached out to UA Scholars to discuss his circumstance. They were very helpful and have awarded him this award! Congratulations Clark!

The UA Scholars Award is a \$15,000 scholarship awarded to students in the top ten percent of their Alaska high school class at the end of the junior year. The Award may be used toward the cost of attendance at any location within the University of Alaska system.