



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 26, 2009
TO: Members, Board of Education
FROM: Steve Atwater, Ph.D. *Steve Atwater*
Superintendent of Schools
RE: Review of Weighted Grades

Background: In 2004 the District implemented a regulation (AR 6146.1) that recognized Advanced Placement (AP) courses as eligible for a weighted grade. Under this regulation, students can earn up to a 4.042 for an AP class. At the end of this memo is a graph detailing the number of students taking AP classes since adoption of this regulation. Briefly, receiving a weighted grade places a student in an advantageous position in the calculation of GPA that may affect valedictorian designation, class ranking, scholarship opportunities and college admission application review.

Reason for Review: In September the Board heard a request that college courses should be weighted in the same manner as AP courses. In October, the Kenai Central High School Site Council raised the issue of taking AP classes at an alternative site and the potential inequity of those who can afford to travel for AP classes and those who cannot. In response to this, KCHS will not, as per BP6146.8, include weighted grades in the students' GPA calculation for its valedictorian designation. This change does not address class ranking

Although weighted grades is an administrative regulation, my review of the history of their inception shows extensive Board involvement with this regulation. It is because of this previous involvement that I am seeking your input on this regulation.

In this matter I see three options for the District:

1. Leave AR 6146.1 as is
2. Expand weighted grades to apply to other courses
3. Eliminate weighted grades

