



# 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

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## M E M O R A N D U M

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**DATE:** December 1, 2009  
**TO:** Members, Board of Education  
**FROM:** Steve Atwater, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
**RE:** Increasing Collaboration Time Through a Shortened School Day

**Background:** For the past two years the District has been promoting the value of professional collaboration with the understanding that, if done well, it will lead to a greater level of student learning. Recall, that increasing the level of collaboration is one of the three District goals this year. Across the country (including Alaska) schools have used an early release or a delayed start of the school day as a way to create time for this collaboration. Some of these schools add instructional time to the other days of the week to mitigate the net effect of lost instructional time. To date, we have received one proposal from our two Nikiski schools. The District's Leadership team asked these two schools to refine their proposal.

Besides the Nikiski schools, several of our schools are interested in including an early release or delayed start as a part of their school calendar. The administration supports the concept of increased collaboration time but will only allow a school to do so if it can show evidence of the following:

- Parental support for change in daily schedule
- Clear (simple) objectives for the collaboration time
- Well established activity (process) for meeting the objectives
- Process or method to determine effectiveness (assessment) of the release time

**Reason for this Worksession Item:** Because the requests from schools to allow a delayed start or early release will continue, I wanted you to: 1. be aware of these requests; 2. understand the benefits of using time in this way; and 3. have a chance to offer your input on such a change to a school's daily schedule.