

DROPOUT FROM BOARDING HOME AND DORMITORY PROGRAMS IN 1973-74  
COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

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In 1973-74, most boarding home and dormitory programs were administratively transferred from the state of Alaska to other organizations such as regional associations or a school district. This paper compares, in so far as possible, dropout in September-January, 1973-74, with dropout during the previous two years. However, only for the boarding home program do we have comparable dropout figures for September-January, 1973-74 and 1972-73. For dormitory programs, we can only compare dropout during September-January, 1973-74 with dropout during the full school year of 1972-73. For both boarding home and dormitory programs in 1971-72, we also have information only on dropout over the full school year.

Summary

Fundamentally, there has been little, if any, over-all improvement in dropout from secondary school programs away from home in the first semester of 1973-74 compared to previous years (see Tables 1 and 2).

In the Boarding Home Program in the first semester of 1973-74, student terminations, transfers, and total withdrawal<sup>1</sup> increased slightly compared to the first semester of 1972-73.

In dormitory programs adopting new living arrangements (change to boarding home, cottage, or new dormitory policies), it must be kept in mind that we are comparing dropout during the first semester of 1973-74 with the entire school year of 1972-73. Dropout is lower so far, but it remains to be seen whether this improvement will remain at the end of the school year since additional students may leave during the second semester of 1973-74. Moreover, it should be kept in mind that dropout from dormitory programs in 1972-73 was unusually high because of such disruptive events as the Nome-Beltz school consolidation and the initial start-up difficulties in the Bethel dormitory. Dropout in the first semester in 1973-74 from the dormitory programs adopting new living arrangements is actually higher than dropout during the entire school year of 1971-72.

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<sup>1</sup>Definitions and means of calculating statistics are the same in each year.

Terminations--Students who left boarding home program or dormitory and school without immediate plans for enrollment in another educational institution.

Transfers--Students who left program in course of transferring to another educational institution.

Total Withdrawal--Sum of terminations and transfers as a rough indicator of student dissatisfaction with the program experience. Unless such a summary figure is used, a program can hide its problems by "transferring" a student who is doing badly rather than sending him home and having him show up as a "dropout."

### Administrative Transfer of Programs During 1973-74

It is very important NOT to regard the administrative transfer of established boarding home and dormitory programs to regional associations as the fulfillment of the ideal of Native control over secondary education for several reasons:

1. The regional Native groups did not have the opportunity to plan and develop what they considered to be the most appropriate form of secondary education for village children. They inherited ongoing programs established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State of Alaska.

2. The regional Native groups did not have control over many important aspects of these programs. For example, a regional organization in charge of boarding home programs did not control the school situation.

3. The secondary school programs are not controlled by the persons most directly affected--the students' own parents in the village--but rather by regional groups.

### Limitations of Dropout Statistics in Evaluating Programs

Many improvements in programs can be made and may well have been made in 1973-74 which do not show up in changes in dropout statistics. For example, a Native arts program or a cottage living style arrangement may considerably increase the well-being of Native students living away from home. Nonetheless, these improvements may not solve other major problems, such as the students' homesickness or the prejudice he encounters from other students in the school. Thus, despite improvement, the student may still leave the program.

Table 1

## STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM CONTINUING

## BOARDING HOME PROGRAMS

Area Administrated	1971-72		1972-73		1973-74	
	Full School Year Sept-May Number	Percent	First Semester Sept-Jan. Number	Percent	First Semester Sept-Jan. Number	Percent
<u>Anchorage &amp; Vicinity</u>						
Initial Enrollment*	<u>604</u>		<u>412</u>		<u>361</u>	
Terminations	<u>72</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>9%</u>
Transfers	<u>69</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>23%</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	141	23%	110	27%	115	32%
<u>Fairbanks &amp; Vicinity</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>392</u>		<u>288</u>		<u>328</u>	
Terminations	<u>34</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>12%</u>
Transfers	<u>44</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>7%</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	78	20%	53	19%	63	19%
<u>Southeast &amp; Vicinity</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>45</u>		<u>29</u>		<u>45</u>	
Terminations	<u>1</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>24%</u>
Transfers	<u>3</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9%</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	4	9%	5	17%	15	33%
<u>Dillingham**</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>87</u>		<u>68</u>		<u>80</u>	
Terminations	<u>14</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13%</u>
Transfers	<u>3</u>	<u>3%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6%</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	17	19%	6	9%	15	19%
<u>Bethel</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>155</u>		<u>105</u>		<u>113</u>	
Terminations	<u>24</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17%</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>40%</u>
Transfers	<u>6</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2%</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	30	19%	27	26%	47	42%
<u>Total</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>1283</u>		<u>902</u>		<u>927</u>	
Terminations	<u>145</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>15%</u>
Transfers	<u>125</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>13%</u>
Total Withdrawals	270	21%	201	22%	255	28%

\*This figure is for September and does not include students who entered later in the year, as these figures are not available to us.

\*\*Does not include Foreign Study Programs.

Table 2

## STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM DORMITORY

## PROGRAMS ADOPTING NEW LIVING

## ARRANGEMENTS IN 1973-74

Note: 1973-74 dropout figures are only for first semester; 1972-73 and 1971-72 figures are for full school year.

Area Administrated	1971-72 Full School Year* Sept-May		1972-73 Full School Year* Sept-May		1973-74 First Semester Sept-Jan.		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<u>Wm. E. Beltz Dormitory</u> (Nome/Beltz Consolidation, 1972)					<u>Changed to Cottage/ Boarding Home</u>		
Initial Enrollment**	<u>187</u>		<u>173</u>		<u>97</u>		
Terminations	<u>5</u>	3%	<u>52</u>	30%	<u>25</u>	26%	
Transfers	<u>18</u>	10%	<u>15</u>	9%	<u>1</u>	1%	
Total Withdrawal from this program	23	13%	67	39%	26	27%	
<u>Bethel Dormitory</u> (Opened in 1972)					<u>Changed Dormitory Policies</u>		
Initial Enrollment			<u>205</u>		<u>148</u>		
Terminations			<u>87</u>	42%	<u>28</u>	19%	
Transfers			<u>27</u>	13%	<u>22</u>	15%	
Total Withdrawal from this program			114	55%	50	34%	
<u>Kodiak-Aleutian Dormitory</u>					<u>Changed to:</u>		
Initial Enrollment	<u>249</u>		<u>73</u>		<u>56</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>88</u>
Terminations	<u>39</u>	16%	<u>22</u>	30%	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>
Transfers	<u>40</u>	16%	<u>14</u>	19%	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>18</u>
Total Withdrawal from this program	79	32%	36	49%	17	16	33
<u>Total</u>							
Initial Enrollments	<u>436</u>		<u>451</u>		<u>333</u>		
Terminations	<u>44</u>	10%	<u>161</u>	36%	<u>68</u>	20%	
Transfers	<u>58</u>	13%	<u>56</u>	12%	<u>41</u>	12%	
Total Withdrawals	102	23%	217	48%	109	32%	

\*First semester data is not available.

\*This figure is for September and does not include students who entered later in the year, as these figures are not available to us.

TOTAL BOARDING HOME AND DORMITORY PROGRAMS

	1971-72		1972-73		1973-74	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<u>Boarding Home Programs</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>1283</u>		<u>902</u>		<u>927</u>	
Terminations	<u>145</u>	11%	<u>99</u>	11%	<u>137</u>	15%
Transfers	<u>125</u>	10%	<u>102</u>	11%	<u>118</u>	13%
Total Withdrawals	<u>270</u>	21%	<u>201</u>	22%	<u>255</u>	28%
<u>Dormitory Programs</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>249</u>		<u>451</u>		<u>333</u>	
Terminations	<u>44</u>	10%	<u>161</u>	36%	<u>68</u>	20%
Transfers	<u>58</u>	13%	<u>56</u>	12%	<u>41</u>	12%
Total Withdrawals	<u>102</u>	23%	<u>217</u>	48%	<u>109</u>	32%
<u>TOTAL - Dormitories &amp; Boarding Home</u>						
Initial Enrollment	<u>1719</u>		<u>1353</u>		<u>1260</u>	
Terminations	<u>189</u>	11%	<u>260</u>	19%	<u>205</u>	16%
Transfers	<u>183</u>	11%	<u>158</u>	12%	<u>159</u>	13%
Total Withdrawals	<u>372</u>	22%	<u>418</u>	31%	<u>364</u>	29%

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Initial Enrollment -- This figure is for September and does not include data on students entering throughout the year, due to its unavailability, but all years are calculated in the same way.
2. Transfers -- Students left boarding program either in the course of transferring to another educational institution, or switched to another boarding program while remaining in school.
3. Terminations -- Student left boarding program or dormitory and school without immediate plans for enrollment in another educational institution.
4. Total Withdrawal -- The sum of transfers and terminations as a measure of student dissatisfaction with program experience.