

1.17 Tribal Governments and Tribal Schools

AASB supports the development of Tribal Schools through the state compacting process which have true autonomy separate from their local public school district. AASB recognizes the sovereignty of tribal governments and that they should determine how tribal schools should be governed and operated, which includes teacher qualifications, student standards, assessment requirements, curriculum, etc.

Rationale:

Many of the current requirements for public schools under Alaska statutes and regulations and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development can perpetuate the harm imposed on Alaska Native children by the westernized school system. Tribal compacting is a step in the right direction to return self-determination to Alaska Native tribes for the education of their children, but independent autonomy for many aspects of curriculum, instruction and assessment must be allowed to truly recognize the rights of Alaska Native tribes to self-govern. This will support the ability of tribal schools to revitalize Indigenous languages and fully incorporate culture into every aspect of schooling without imposition of Western expectations and bureaucracy.

Submitted by: Nome School District

2.65 Resources to Effectively Implement the Alaska Reads Act

The Association of Alaska School Boards urges the Legislature to provide resources to effectively implement the mandates of the Alaska Reads Act.

Rationale: School Board members recognize the importance of early literacy. With the passage of the Alaska Reads Act many unfunded mandates were legislated. Alaska school districts face the additional costs of teacher training, additional costs for materials for tier II and III interventions, and the additional costs for staffing in order to provide tier II interventions during the school day as well as tier III interventions after school hours. A plan to examine all the costs associated with the Alaska Reads Act unfunded mandates is needed.

Submitted by: Lower Kuskokwim School District

3.31 Addressing and Preventing Human and Sex Trafficking

AASB believes every student has the right to grow up away from the fear of Human and Sex Trafficking. Statistics show that the criminal enterprise of human and sex trafficking is real within the state of Alaska.

Addressing and preventing human and sex trafficking requires the collective efforts of trained individuals who are internally and externally working with the school system.

Prevention of human and sex trafficking starts with training and awareness of the warning signs and identification of behaviors of at-risk minors.

AASB is in support of bringing awareness, education, policy, and legislation forward regarding this topic.

AASB supports the development and adoption of policy providing for awareness and education, including establishing the identification of warning signs for at-risk minors, in order to prevent human and sex trafficking.

AASB supports the establishment and support of local agencies to develop and implement educational opportunities, service referrals and safe environments for victims of human and sex trafficking.

AASB encourages citizens, businesses, state, and district employees to take advantage of all local opportunities to become educated on this important topic.

Rationale: Legal Definition:

The Act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

According to the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (CHST) dated September 13, 2022, Key Priority #2 specifically addresses the need for Alaskan Educators to know the risk factors and warning signs associated with trafficking.

A 2017 study done at the Tanana Chiefs Conference states "1 in 4 females at Anchorage's covenant house had been trafficked for sex, and of those youth- 42% were Alaska Native."

Submitted by: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

3.32 A Resolution Regarding the Immediate Repeal on the Legislative Moratorium Related to School Facilities Maintenance.

The Cordova School District urges the Legislature to immediately repeal and to no further extend the moratorium slated to end in 2025 on new school construction and major renovation funding

Rationale: The National Council on School Facilities infrastructure report published in 2020 recommended spending 4% of a state's schools' replacement value on capital projects. Alaska's 2020 replacement value for its almost 500 K-12 schools was \$9.4 billion. Under the National Council's guidelines, Alaska's targeted investment on school capital projects should have been \$374 million. The State actually spent \$249 million, or 2.6% of its replacement value at that time. With ongoing increasing costs of goods and services, and a demonstrated and imperative need as identified by school districts across the State, the Legislature must repeal the extended 10-year moratorium on new school construction and major renovation in order to provide the learning environments all students deserve.

Submitted by: Cordova School District

EDUCATION PROGRAMS CORE RESOLUTIONS

5.36 Safe and Secure Storage of Firearms

Providing Alaska's students and staff with a safe educational environment remains a top priority for AASB. It is recommended that AASB partner with the Be Smart campaign to help keep Alaska's schools safe by collaborating with and distributing the "Be Smart" safe and secure firearm storage information to all member districts, strategic partners, stakeholders, state education entities, healthcare-providers, and non-profits.

The Be SMART campaign encourages responsible firearm ownership and aims to reduce firearm deaths as a result of children getting their hands on unsecured firearms. The campaign raises awareness about unintentional shootings by children and how to securely store firearms in the home. Parents and caretakers are encouraged to "Be SMART" by taking these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children:

- Secure all firearms in your home and vehicles;
- Model responsible behavior around firearms;
- Ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in other homes;
- Recognize the risks of teen suicide;
- Tell your peers to be SMART.

Rationale: The Be SMART campaign was created to bring together all responsible adults to reduce suicides and the number of unintentional shootings that occur when children get ahold of an unsecured firearm.

Guns continue to be a leading cause of death for our youth. A national survey found that 57% of our youth are concerned that there will be a shooting in their school, and the percentages of our students who reported feeling safe at school substantially decreased between 2021 and 2022.

In Alaska:

- Firearms are the #1 cause of death for children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska.
- An average of 20 children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska die from firearms every year.
- 1 in 10 Alaska adults live in a home with an unlocked and loaded firearm.

Unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to our students beyond gun violence in schools. Every year, 350 youth under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day. Gun suicide among our youth has reached the highest rate in more than 20 years, and a 2019 survey found that 26 percent of Anchorage students said they had seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. In most child gun suicides, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.

Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. Storing firearms securely protects any child in the home as well as students throughout the school district and community.

For more information about Be SMART, please visit [BeSMARTforKids.org](https://besmartforkids.org).

For more information about pediatric firearm safety, please visit:
<https://besmartforkids.org/> <https://momsdemandaction.org/>
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775412>

Submitted by: Juneau School District

5.37 Environmental Stewardship

It is recommended that AASB adopt an Environmental Stewardship resolution to emphasize the role schools play in (i) demonstrating sustainable actions in school buildings and during building renovations, (ii) educating students on the importance of sustainability, and (iii) fostering student-led initiatives to promote sustainability. Through this resolution, AASB commits to increased awareness of the importance of Environmental Stewardship in schools across the State.

Rationale: Alaska has experienced direct and significant impacts of climate change. Environmental stewardship encourages near- and long-term decisions towards sustainability in school facilities (i.e., reduce waste through recycling programs) and through the education of future generations.

Submitted by: Juneau School District

EDUCATION PROGRAMS CORE RESOLUTIONS

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- Recognize the risks of teen suicide;
- Tell your peers to be SMART.

Rationale: The Be SMART campaign was created to bring together all responsible adults to reduce suicides and the number of unintentional shootings that occur when children get ahold of an unsecured firearm.

Gun Violence is a leading cause of death for our youth. A national survey found that 57% of our youth are concerned that there will be a shooting in their school, and the percentages of our students who reported feeling safe at school substantially decreased between 2021 and 2022.

In Alaska:

- Violence involving firearms are the #1 cause of death for children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska.
- An average of 20 children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska die from firearms every year.
- 1 in 10 Alaska adults live in a home with an unlocked and loaded firearm.

Unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to our students beyond gun violence in schools. Every year, 350 youth under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day. Gun suicide among our youth has reached the highest rate in more than 20 years, and a 2019 survey found that 26 percent of Anchorage students said they had seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. In most child gun suicides, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.

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You can learn more and download helpful resources, including a secure storage fact sheet, guide to talking to your children about guns, and facts and resources on child firearm suicide, on our Security and Emergency Management webpage.

For more information about Be SMART, please visit BeSMARTforKids.org.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS CORE RESOLUTIONS

For more information about pediatric firearm safety, please visit:
<https://besmartforkids.org/> <https://momsdemandaction.org/>
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775412>

Submitted by: Anchorage School District

EDUCATION PROGRAMS **CORE RESOLUTIONS**

5.39 Addressing English Learner Identification of Alaska Native Students

AASB requests that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development ensure that the English Learner identification process be modified to reduce classification of Alaska Native students who have some measure of an Indigenous language spoken in their home as English Learners.

Rationale: The current process and screening often results in children participating in immersion preschool programs, or with parents who are dedicated to language revitalization/continuation within their homes being classified as English Learners, which may burden these children with unnecessary EL supports, programs and assessments.

Submitted by: Nome School District