

(New) 1.10 URGING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (NSBA) TO CREATE A DESIGNATED SEAT ON THE NSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A MEMBER OF THE CAUCUS OF AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES.

The Association of Alaska School Boards strongly encourages the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Delegate Assembly to create a designated voting seat on the NSBA board of directors for a member of the National Caucus of American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Rationale: Students of every ethnicity need advocates at the policymaker level. Approximately 644,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives attend public schools and make up 1.2% of America's student population. In Alaska 30,645 native students attend public schools and make up 23% of the student population. Approximately 90% of American Indians and Alaska Natives attend public schools. The National Center for Education Statistics data indicates that AIAN students score at or near the bottom on standardized tests in mathematics and language arts and are disproportionately assigned to special education and have a higher absenteeism rate. The Association of Alaska School Boards believes the time has come to create a seat on the NSBA Board of directors designated to represent America's First People in order to give appropriate attention to one of public education's lowest performing sub-groups, American Indians and Alaska Natives and to further NSBA's commitment to equity.

(AASB approved resolution, July 2017)

4.16 (New) SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PEDAGOGY IN ALASKA

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to support regionally-implemented immersive cultural training and programs through Alaska Studies and Cross Cultural Communication professional development courses. Furthermore, AASB urges DEED to provide for the development of regionally and locally relevant elementary and secondary curriculum, which includes Alaska's history from the Alaska Native perspective. AASB also urges the University of Alaska College of Education (COE) to support local teacher preparation programs that grow our own teachers as well as supporting regional campuses in offering regionally-relevant Alaska Studies and Cross Cultural Communication courses.

Rationale: The Alaska Association of Schools Boards recognizes the fact that Alaska's public schools need to provide an equitable and relevant education to all students that prioritizes social justice and advocacy. AASB recognizes the predictability of disparity in achievement based on race or ethnicity.

The first long-range goal (2015-2018) of AASB is to:

"...empower boards to increase the academic success of Alaska Native students and increase graduation rates of Alaska Native students who are grounded in their cultural identity with the ability to successfully pursue their goals".

AASB strives to deliberately act to eliminate such gaps, policies, practices and structures that perpetuate inequities based on race and support the elimination of the factors that predict disparity. AASB recognizes that systemic changes in formal schooling need to occur in order for achievement to increase and recognizes the need for equitable delivery of education revolving around giving every student what he or she needs to achieve success (Bylaws Article 2, Section 6 and Policy 100).

AASB supports and encourages the creation of culturally responsive learning environments that support high expectations and academic achievement for learners from all racial groups. AASB supports funded opportunities and sufficient resources for quality and relevant staff including administrators (AASB 2017 Resolutions 4.1, 4.13). AASB currently collaborates with initiatives such as the Alaska Education Challenge, the newly-structured University of Alaska College of Education; the First Alaskans Institute Education Council, the Educators Rising Standards, and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference on Education in accomplishing equitable and relevant education in Alaska.

Proposed by: AASB BOD

Date Submitted (M/D/YY): 7/23/17

5.23 (New) SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL ALASKAN STUDENTS

AASB understands the importance of all levels of education policymakers working together to transform education to the benefit of the children and communities that we all serve. AASB urges stakeholders to be innovative in their thinking and to support efforts to collaboratively change practices and address barriers to implement new ways of teaching and learning.

Rationale: The current education system in Alaska does not serve all students equitably and many of our youth do not reach their full potential. Only through collaboration, partnership, and the willingness to be innovative can we hope to transform education to serve all students. Innovation and transformative change will take effort and participation by all stakeholders, such as in the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's "Alaska Education Challenge". It will require all levels of policymakers and stakeholders (*State Legislature, Governor, Municipalities, Tribal entities, School Board members, Superintendent Association, NEA, education groups, families, and others*) working towards a clear, well articulated goal of providing an excellent education for every child every day, to truly fulfill the expectations of our constitutionally mandated education system.

Proposed by: AASB Board of Directors

Date Submitted (M/D/YY): 7/23/17