

RESOLUTIONS GUIDE



association of
ALASKA
school boards



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Introduction

The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) resolutions process brings member school boards together to shape the Association's advocacy work. Each November, during AASB's Annual Conference, voting delegates adopt official positions that guide the Association's advocacy agenda and priorities. Through this annual process, member boards may propose new positions, amend existing positions, and consider whether existing resolutions and belief statements should continue or sunset. Alaska school boards play an important role in bringing forward local perspectives, highlighting emerging challenges, and helping ensure the Association's advocacy reflects the needs and experiences of communities across the state.

The Resolution Guide is intended to help AASB members better understand the resolutions process and how to effectively participate in it. Within this guide, you will find key terms and definitions, a detailed timeline, and guidance for drafting and submitting resolutions. Member boards may submit proposed resolutions on any subject relevant to public education.



Key Terms & Definitions

Resolution: A formal position adopted by AASB's membership that identifies an issue affecting public education and calls for specific action, advocacy, or policy direction. Resolutions guide AASB's legislative and advocacy efforts.

Belief Statement: A statement expressing the enduring values and guiding principles shared by AASB and its member boards regarding public education and student success. Belief Statements communicate the foundational commitments that inform the Association's advocacy.

Rationale: A statement that accompanies a resolution and explains the background, context, or need for the proposed position, helping establish why the issue is important to Alaska's school boards. AASB staff may develop, revise, or update rationale statements as necessary to ensure they reflect current information, legislative context, and supporting research.

Sunset: The scheduled expiration of a resolution after a defined period of time (five years) unless action is taken to continue, amend, or readopt it.

Resolutions Committee: A committee of AASB members that meets on the Thursday pre-conference day of Annual Conference to review proposed new, amended, and sunseting resolutions prior to consideration by the Delegate Assembly. All members are welcome to participate, and each member district is encouraged to send at least one representative to the committee meeting.

Resolutions Committee Chair: The AASB President-Elect serves as Chair of the Resolutions Committee and presides over the committee meeting and the Delegate Assembly.

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairs: School board members appointed to lead the review and discussion of assigned resolutions during the Resolutions Committee meeting. A Subcommittee Chair facilitates discussion, helps organize recommendations, and presents the recommendations to the full committee for consideration.

Like-Sized District Forums: Discussion sessions held on the Friday afternoon of Annual Conference that bring together school board members from districts of similar enrollment size. The forums provide an opportunity for members to discuss common challenges, collaborate on issues, and prepare for Delegate Assembly. While AASB suggests forum placements based on district size or type, members are welcome to attend any forum.

Weighted Voting: The system used by AASB's membership to vote on substantive issues during the Delegate Assembly. Under this system, each member school board is assigned between one and five votes based on the district's Average Daily Membership (ADM).

Delegate Assembly: The official voting body of AASB's membership composed of representatives from member school boards across Alaska. The Delegate Assembly meets on Sunday during AASB's Annual Conference to debate, amend, and adopt resolutions and belief statements.



Developing Resolutions

Well-crafted resolutions provide AASB with clearly stated goals while providing flexibility to pursue solutions that meet member needs. The strongest resolutions combine a clearly defined issue, identifiable decision-makers, a thoughtful supporting rationale, and a practical call to action.

Before drafting a new resolution, review [AASB's Where We Stand](#) to determine whether an existing resolution or belief statement already addresses your priority in whole or in part. In some cases, proposing an amendment to an existing resolution may be more effective than introducing an entirely new one.

1. Clear Call to Action



Clearly state the advocacy position. Effective resolutions articulate a practical solution, policy direction, or desired outcome. The action requests should be realistic, specific, and understandable to someone unfamiliar with the issue. Clear language helps members, legislators, and policymakers understand exactly what change is being requested and why it matters.

2. Identify Decision-Makers



Consider whether to specify the decision-makers empowered to make change. Depending on the topic, the appropriate audience may include the Alaska Legislature, Congress, the Governor, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), or local school boards and districts. Identifying the responsible decision-maker helps focus advocacy efforts and strengthens the effectiveness of the resolution.

3. Persuasive Rationale



Strong rationale statements establish context, explain the impact on students and districts, and build a case for action. An effective rationale is concise, factual, and focused on helping readers understand the importance of the issue. Please note that AASB delegates will debate and take action only on the language of the resolution itself, and not the rationale. AASB staff may edit rationale statements as necessary.

4. Statewide Significance



Because AASB resolutions help guide statewide advocacy priorities, proposed resolutions should address issues with broad relevance to Alaska school boards across the state. Strong resolutions connect local experiences to larger statewide trends, challenges, or policy concerns that may affect multiple districts and communities.



Anatomy of a Resolution

Number	Title	
2.11	FUNDING FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	
Call to Action	AASB urges the Alaska Legislature and Administration to provide adequate funding for pupil transportation. Adequate funding includes determining the actual annual cost of pupil transportation for school districts to avoid the necessity of districts subsidizing these costs at the expense of student instruction.	Identified Decision-Makers
	Rationale. Pupil transportation is a necessary and vital service to support public education. With darkness occurring during the majority of the school term, hazardous road conditions, and dangers from wildlife, transporting students is necessary for their safety to and from school. Pupil transportation costs continue to increase each year, requiring school districts to subsidize the costs at the expense of classroom funding. Rising costs include fuel, a shortage of drivers, and lack of competition among bus company providers. AS 23.10.065(b) requires bus drivers to be compensated at twice the minimum wage established by the State of Alaska. The rising costs for pupil transportation is beyond the control of local school districts and should be covered through the legislative budget process.	Persuasive Rationale
Adopted 2022	First Adopted	
Amended 2024	Last Amended	
(Sunsets 2029)	Sunsets	

Association of Alaska School Boards



2026 Sunsetting Resolutions

Resolutions remain in effect for five years unless amended or rescinded. The resolutions listed below were adopted or last amended in 2021 and will sunset this year unless they are reintroduced through the 2026 resolutions process.

NUMBER	SUBJECT AREA	TITLE
1.7	Governance	Accountability and Advocacy for Students Outside the Public School System
2.3	Funding	Secure Rural Schools
2.9	Funding	Local Contribution in the School Funding Formula
2.15	Funding	Funding for School District-Operated Regional Boarding Home Programs
2.21	Funding	Reliable and Efficient Service by the Alaska Marine Highway System
2.22	Funding	Supporting Bypass Mail in Alaska
2.45	Funding	Teacher Education Loan Expansion
2.47	Funding	Support for the Adoption of Legislation for State-Funded Early Childhood (Pre-K) Education in Public School Districts
3.13	Child Advocacy	In Support of the Alaska Children's Trust
3.16	Child Advocacy	Revise Parental Permission Requirements for Questionnaires and Surveys Administered in Public Schools
3.26	Child Advocacy	Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments for LGBTQ+ Students
5.20	Education Programs	Supporting Random or Weighted Lotteries for Charter School Programs
5.21	Education Programs	Supporting the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
5.33	Education Programs	Restoring the Alaska Learning Network (AKLN)



Submitting a Resolution

AASB member school boards may submit new resolutions, proposed amendments to existing resolutions or belief statements, or comments on existing positions through the annual resolutions process. All proposed resolutions and amendments must be approved through formal action of a member school board prior to submission.

Resolutions should be submitted using the official AASB resolution submission form and should include the full text of the proposed resolution and any supporting rationale statement.

Submitted resolutions are reviewed by AASB staff for formatting, clarity, and consistency before being compiled for consideration by the Resolutions Committee. AASB staff may contact submitting districts with questions prior to publication of the resolutions packet.

[Form to Submit a Resolution](#)

Helpful Resources

[Where We Stand Resolutions and Belief Statements](#) (Online site)

[Where We Stand Resolutions and Belief Statements](#) (PDF)

AASB Policies on Resolutions

- [Policy 208 Resolutions Committee](#)
- [Policy 212 Resolutions Annual Review and Process](#)
- [Policy 202 Rules of Procedure](#)

AASB Constitution & Bylaws

[Article 9 Policy, Section 2 Resolutions & Section 3 Resolutions Presentation](#)