

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

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