

5.28 (NEW) SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES

As stated in Belief Statement B.11, AASB honors and celebrates the rich cultural, ethnic and linguistic heritage of Alaska Native people and supports the preservation and restoration of indigenous languages across the state. In recognition of the linguistic emergency for the twenty-one surviving Alaska Native languages declared on September 23, 2018 in Administrative Order No. 300, AASB urges support from the Alaska Legislature, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and the University of Alaska.

AASB urges the Alaska Legislature to encourage and empower local school districts in their efforts to integrate Alaska Native languages across all age levels through additional, targeted funding allocations. This funding will support the development of curriculum, as well as the training, certification and hiring of qualified, fluent Alaska Native language educators.

AASB urges the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to review its policies regarding requirements for unrestricted teacher certification in Alaska Native languages.

AASB encourages the University of Alaska system to reinvigorate and expand its programs in all Alaska Native languages. These programs are instrumental in the preservation of our state's indigenous languages.

Rationale: Alaska Native languages have been lost over many years of English-only instruction in our schools. It is incumbent upon our school systems to help restore this loss. The addition of targeted funding for schools in response to this emergency is critical in restoring and stopping the loss of Alaska Native languages.

In many regions of the state, the most qualified instructor candidates for Alaska Native languages are often elders and are barred from full teacher certification due to a lack of instruction in areas such as upper level mathematics and English, areas that are irrelevant to the subject matter. When the speakers of a language possessing the greatest knowledge of its vocabulary and most understanding of its nuances are barred from becoming instructors by regulations created for instruction in another language, it is appropriate to review and update those regulations.

University programs, such as the Alaska Native Language Center, are critical in the preparation of language instructors and supporting the development of curriculum and program.

**Proposed by SWRSD to come from the floor on Sunday
November 11, 2018 at the Delegate Assembly.**

Requires a suspension of the rules by the Delegate Assembly.