



**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #4
Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA)
Submitted by Juneau-Douglas High School
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Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments;

- 1. Whereas,** The Juneau School District currently functions under an unweighted Grade-Point-Average (GPA) policy and uses this GPA to determine class ranking. Under this system, all classes are worth the same maximum value; a grade of 90%-100% (A- to A+) receives a value of 4.0 on this scale, a grade of 80%-89% (B- to B+) receives a value of 3.0 etc. All classes are used to calculate GPA, and then these values are then averaged to determine the overall GPA of a student. The highest GPA among a class earns a class rank of 1, the next highest earns a class rank of 2, etc. This unweighted GPA and class rank are then reported.
- 2. Whereas,** A weighted GPA would be determined as follows: [given an “A”] each Honors class is worth a maximum of 4.5 points, an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course is worth a maximum of 5.0 points, all other classes are worth a maximum of 4.0 points. Only required core classes and any extra AP classes are averaged in this system. The class rank of one would go to the person with the highest weighted GPA and this weighted GPA would be reported.⁷
- 3. Whereas,** Under a weighted GPA system, class rank gives colleges a way to fairly and accurately compare you to your peers of the same grade where they might not have that opportunity under an unweighted system;⁶
- 4. Whereas,** Class rank and reported GPA can be an important factor in being admitted to college or gaining scholarships, including the UA Scholars Scholarship, Alaska Performance Scholarship and other institutional scholarships;^{5, 6}
- 5. Whereas,** The influx (60% increase) of applicants applying to a given college due to the creation of the Common App makes it difficult to gain acceptance ^{2, 3, 4}
- 6. Whereas,** “Weighted GPAs and the Class Ranks associated with them have two clear objectives. The first is to provide colleges with a measure of relative class standing. The second is to provide the student with extrinsic incentives to take appropriately challenging courses while in high school to adequately prepare the student for a college curriculum.”;¹
- 7. Whereas,** Some colleges and scholarship committees choose not to reweight grades and use only the school reported GPA, especially for giving merit based scholarships;⁶
- 8. Whereas,** Nearly 80% of schools in the United States choose to use a weighted GPA scale;¹
- 9. Whereas,** Weighted GPAs encourages students to challenge themselves by rewarding them for taking harder courses and earning higher grades;^{1, 6}

Therefore be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that The Juneau School District will adopt a 5.0 weighted GPA scale

1 Lang, DM. "Class Rank, GPA, and Valedictorians: How High Schools Rank Students." American Secondary Education 35.2 (2007): 36-48. Web. 17 March 2016.

2 Center for Public Education. "Chasing the college acceptance letter: Is it harder to get in?" Center for Public Education, 15 Jan. 2015. Web. 17 March 2016.

3 Urist, Jacoba. "Is College Really Harder to Get Into Than It Used To Be?" The Atlantic, 4 April 2014. Web. 17 March 2016.

4 Edmonds, Dan. "College Admissions: The Myth of Higher Selectivity." Times, 20 March 2016. Web. 17 March 2016.

5 Frank, Robert, Braswell, Laura, Mullarkey, Seamus. The Best 376 Colleges 2012. New York: Random House Incorporated, 2012. Print

6 Kalvin, Terri. Personal interview. 10 March 2016.

7 Student Made Model, Appendix one

Passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments at the Spring 2016 Conference



Taylor Holman, Vice President