



**Alaska Association of Student Government**

**Resolution #13**

**AP Psychology Toward Science Elective Credit**

**Submitted by: Michelle Collins and Alli Devine**

**Submitted: 10/11/24**

**Be it Resolved by the Alaskan Association of Student Governments That:** AP Psychology be counted towards either a science credit and/or a social studies credit in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD)

1. **Whereas**, in the MSBSD AP Psychology can only be counted toward a social studies credit;<sup>1</sup>
2. **Whereas**, in the MSBSD 3.5 social studies credits are required to graduate;<sup>1</sup>
3. **Whereas**, in the MSBSD 3 science credits are required to graduate;<sup>1</sup>
4. **Whereas**, in the MSBSD 8.5 elective credits are required to graduate for class of 2026 and younger;<sup>1</sup>
5. **Whereas**, psychology is defined as “the scientific study of the way the human mind works and how it influences behavior or the influence of a particular person's character on their behavior.”;<sup>2</sup>
6. **Whereas**, social studies is defined as “the study of individuals, communities, systems, and their interactions across time and place that prepares students for local, national, and global civic life.”;<sup>3</sup>
7. **Whereas**, “In 2017, the APA [American Psychology Association] Summit on High School Psychology Education made the case that psychology is a science and should be

part of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs in high schools.”;<sup>4</sup>

8. **Whereas**, AP Psychology has been revised by College Board since last school year.;<sup>5</sup>
9. **Whereas**, College Board revised the curriculum “To allow for more flexibility and opportunities for college credit, [they] now list AP Psychology as a science course in addition to a social science course.”;<sup>5</sup>
10. **Whereas**, College Board has AP Psychology listed as both a science and social science;<sup>5</sup>
11. **Whereas**, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) has a section called Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior that is 25% of the exam. Within this section, 65% of questions are psychology based;<sup>6</sup>
12. **Whereas**, Blair Academy is an example of a high school that lists AP Psychology as a science course;<sup>7</sup>
13. **Whereas**, the AP Psychology teacher at Wasilla High School, Karli Rauchenstein, is in favor of Psychology courses being included as a science credit;<sup>8</sup>

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Government** supports the Matanuska Susitna Borough School District adding AP Psychology as a science and/or social studies credit rather than just a social studies credit.

**Action Statement:** if passed by the general assembly of AASG this resolution will be brought and presented to the MSBSD School Board.

#### Sources:

1. Matsu Borough School District. “High School Program of Studies.” Matsu Borough School District, 2025,  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-bpW8ckMRpzf63ZINyVYdHqAQASBVzdC/view?pli=1>. Accessed 25 Sept. 2025.
2. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus. “PSYCHOLOGY | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University,  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/psychology>. Accessed 25 Sept. 2024.

3. “New Definition of Social Studies Approved.” *Social Studies*, [www.socialstudies.org/media-information/definition-social-studies-nov2023](http://www.socialstudies.org/media-information/definition-social-studies-nov2023). Accessed 25 Sept. 2024.
4. “Promoting High School Psychology as a Science.” *Monitor on Psychology*, American Psychological Association, [www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/news-high-school-psychology#:~:text=APA%20and%20other%20education%20organizations,who%20cochaired%20the%20working%20group](http://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/news-high-school-psychology#:~:text=APA%20and%20other%20education%20organizations,who%20cochaired%20the%20working%20group). Accessed 25 Sept. 2024.
5. “AP Psychology Revisions for 2024-25 – AP Central | College Board.” AP Central, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-psychology/revisions-2024-25>. Accessed 25 Sept. 2024.
6. “Psychology & Sociology Topics & Questions on the MCAT.” *Grad Prep*, 8 March 2022, <https://www.gradprep.com/blogs/mcat/psychology-sociology>. Accessed 12 October 2024.
7. “2024-25 Curriculum Map.” *Blair Academy*, [www.blair.edu/academics/2024-2025-curriculum-map](http://www.blair.edu/academics/2024-2025-curriculum-map). Accessed 11 Oct. 2024.
8. Rauchenstein, Karli. Personal interview. 20 Sept. 2024.

*Resolution passed with unanimous consent*

**Passed by the Fall 2024 General Assembly of AASG hosted by  
Delta Junction High School**

*Francis Myers*

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AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

*Kathleen Navarre*

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AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre