



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #14

Development of a Gifted and Talented Program

Submitted by: Reagean Wingard and Sarah Todd (Sitka High Student Council)

Submitted: 10/12/2024

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: AASG Supports the further development of a gifted and talented program at Sitka High School.

1. **Whereas**, “Gifted and Talented programs” refer to educational services and activities provided to students who display high academic achievement and require an advanced curriculum;³
2. **Whereas**, the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act defines gifted and talented students as “Students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services and activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities;”³
3. **Whereas**, gifted and talented programs generally include not just acceleration plans, but also enrichment plans, which give a more in-depth and applied curriculum to the same subjects that other students study;¹
4. **Whereas**, Sitka High School currently has no Gifted and Talented program;
5. **Whereas**, Sitka High School has limited advanced class options, which often results in simply accelerating their curriculum without offering specialized support;
6. **Whereas**, 7/10 teachers report that their brightest students were not challenged or given a chance to thrive in their classes;⁴
7. **Whereas**, gifted and talented programs are designed to keep these students engaged while within a pace that best fits them through enrichment plans;²
8. **Whereas**, gifted programming positively influences students' futures in post-secondary education;⁴

9. **Whereas**, the Sitka school district has a state-approved services plan for gifted and talented students for the year 2023 until amended that never went into effect;⁵
10. **Whereas**, the “Gifted Service Plan” includes an emphasis on student learning styles and strengths, student interests and goals, teacher observations, and a middle school to high school transition plan;⁵
11. **Whereas**, Sitka High School has a teacher with gifted and talented qualifications who previously ran a gifted and talented program;
12. **Whereas**, some of the Sitka School Board’s guiding principles include “The Board’s primary focus is student achievement and success,” “Every effort will be made to maintain a comprehensive educational program,” “Securing adequate resources is essential to the district’s ability to support its program”, and “There will be a consistent effort to eliminate barriers to learning for all students.”⁶

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the re-establishment and further development of a comprehensive and effective gifted and talented program at Sitka High School, ensuring that all students with advanced academic abilities receive the appropriate enrichment, research, support, and resources to reach their full potential.

Action Statement: If passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the Sitka School Board to advocate for additional support and resources to implement a gifted and talented program that addresses the unique needs of advanced learners.

Sources:

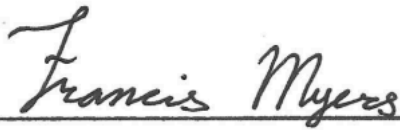
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<https://nagc.org/page/Gifted-Education-Strategies>.
2. Pierce, Emily. “Gifted and Talented Programs: What Parents Should Know.” US News, 23 Mar. 2022,
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3. Frequently Asked Questions about Gifted Education - National Association for Gifted Children. <https://nagc.org/page/frequently-asked-questions-about-gifted-education>.
4. Why Are Gifted Programs Needed? - National Association for Gifted Children.
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5. SSD GT Services Plan 23 State Approved.Docx.
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<https://www.sitkaschools.org/en-US/school-board-0eee8955>.

Passes with noted opposition

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



AASG Vice President, Francis Myers



AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre