



**Alaska Association of Student Government
Resolution #5
Proposal for Multiculture Day in Alaska
Submitted by: Ketchikan High School Student Council
September 25, 2024**

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **Whereas**, Alaska is home to very diverse population of cultures, including Alaska Native, Russian, Filipino, Hispanic, Pacific Islander and many other communities;
2. **Whereas**, In 2020 all of Alaska's school districts were totaled up and 46,551 Native American, 19,139 Asian, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, 12,683 black/African Americans, and 116,895 Whites¹;
3. **Whereas**, In 2023, 64.15% of people in Alaska are white, 15.6% are Alaska Native, 6.77% Asian, 3.67% African American/black, 1.7% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and 8.11% two or more races in all of Alaska²;
4. **Whereas**, Positive cultural influence is proven to help teen and kids with building self image, confidence, and sense of belonging;
5. **Whereas**, A negative cultural influence happens due to people not being told to speak freely about their culture and not knowing where it comes from. Due to the fact that we don't celebrate everyone and only certain cultures;
6. **Whereas**, It decreases drug use, suicides, and school drop out rates³;
7. **Whereas**, As of 2023, Alaskan natives are 20% more likely to commit suicide over whites due to the factors of culture disconnection³;
8. **Whereas**, Getting to know your own culture is proven to help world wide to guide your actions, know your value, and the way you hold yourself up;

9. **Whereas**, There are different months/days out of the year that celebrate different cultures, but they aren't ever talked about;
10. **Whereas**, Some schools in the north have changed their school times so the kids can go out and learn more about their culture through hunting and fishing;
11. **Whereas**, As of the 2020-2021 school year, the Anchorage school district has over half of the students identifying as non-whites. With that, there are over 100 different languages spoken throughout their school district⁴;
12. **Whereas**, for an example, Ketchikan High School believes that a way to host this multicultural day would be in a fashion similar to a college fair, different cultures can have their own area that others can approach to learn more about each one;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Government, supports that the State of Alaska Legislature, Governor, relevant State departments, and local school boards actively support and facilitate the establishment of Alaska Multicultural Day, promoting it as a day of celebration, learning, and community engagement.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, we would urge the State Legislators, the Governor, and local school boards to establish an Alaska Multicultural Day.

Sources:

1. <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/4604-child-population-birth-to-age-19-by-bridged-race#detailed/2/any/false/574,1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867/167,641,642,13,107/10607>
2. <https://beautifydata.com/united-states-population/race-and-ethnicity/alaska/estimate/2023>
3. <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/mental-and-behavioral-health-american-indiansalaska-natives>
4. <https://www.asdk12.org/aboutasd/>

Passes with noted opposition

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

Francis Myers

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

Kathleen Navarre

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre