



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #17

Confirmed Allowance of Cultural Regalia at Alaska Schools Graduation Ceremonies

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Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments:

1. **Whereas**, Alaska has three of the five most diverse high schools in the United States;¹
2. **Whereas**, Traditional Objects of Regalia (TOR) can be defined as items of clothing or accessories that are of meaningful cultural significance to students and serve to enrich the celebration of their graduation ceremonies;
3. **Whereas**, examples of TOR may include bracelets, necklaces, feathers, anklets, and footwear;
4. **Whereas**, there is currently no comprehensive statewide policy in Alaska stating that students can or cannot wear TOR, however, students have still been denied the right, or had to undergo convoluted processes to exercise that right;²
5. **Whereas**, many family members travel great distances to attend graduation ceremonies and their experiences would be enriched by the presence of TOR;
6. **Whereas**, wearing TOR is a positive way for students to publicly celebrate their heritage and show appreciation of their cultural background;

7. **Whereas**, letters of approval would have to be signed by parents/guardians to ensure TOR are accurately representative of the students' identified cultural heritage;
8. **Whereas**, TOR would require preapproval from the administration of the students' schools;
9. **Whereas**, students would still be required to wear the original school designated cap and gown;
10. **Whereas**, students would display their TOR over the cap and gown;
11. **Whereas**, large hats and headdresses may not be worn to replace graduation caps;
12. **Whereas**, cultural accessories may be attached to the graduation cap;
13. **Whereas**, students would not be required to wear TOR if they choose not to;
14. **Whereas**, beginning with the 2019 Graduation Ceremonies, the Anchorage School District has permitted graduating students to wear TOR consistent with provided guidelines and prior notification/approval;³

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that graduating students of Alaska schools shall be permitted to supplement their school's required cap and gown attire with traditional objects of regalia at graduation ceremonies upon school administrative approval and parental verification.

Works Cited:

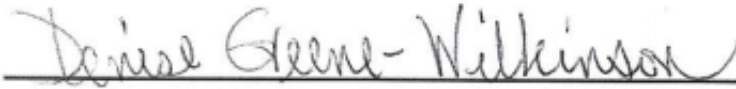
1. "2020 Most Diverse High Schools in America." Niche, <https://www.niche.com/k12/search/most-diverse-public-high-schools/>
2. "Anchorage Students Can Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation." AP NEWS, Associated Press, 27 Apr. 2019, <https://apnews.com/70831bcbe38a43818a86418c6dd4024a>.
3. "Celebrate Your Cultural Heritage." Anchorage School District, 2019, www.asdk12.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=115&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=37704&PageID=1

“Graduation Regalia Notification.” East High School, Anchorage School District, 2019,
<https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/82/Graduation%20Regalia%20Overview.pdf>

Passed unanimously by the 2019 Fall Conference GA at Palmer High School



AASG Vice President, Forrest Davis



AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson