



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #13

Restructuring of the Mat-Su Borough School Districts new Valedictorian system

Submitted by: Hadley Spear & Colony High School Student Government

Submitted: April 23, 2026

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments opposes the Mat-Su Borough School District's new Valedictorian system and encourages the district to return to a traditional ranked honors system:

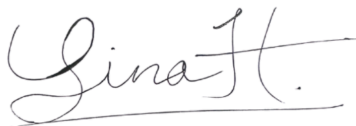
1. **Whereas**, the Mat-Su Borough School District enforced tiered diplomas on January 20th, 2026;¹
2. **Whereas**, there are three diplomas, Standard, Honors, and Honors with Distinction;²
3. **Whereas**, in MSBSD, Valedictorian is described as “the highest GPA earned within the highest diploma option earned, as well as students who would have qualified under previous guidelines” for 2026 graduates;²
4. **Whereas**, in MSBSD, Valedictorian is described as “the highest GPA earned within the highest diploma option earned” for 2027 graduates;²

5. **Whereas**, this was formally enforced in the middle of the 2025-2026 school year, as opposed to a year in advance;¹
6. **Whereas**, a Valedictorian is described as, “the student usually having the highest rank in a graduating class” and has been used since 1772;³
7. **Whereas**, these new requirements mean the student earning Valedictorian no longer has to be the highest rank in the entire class;
8. **Whereas**, these new policies completely discredit those who may be ranked 1st in their entire class, but only earned a standard diploma and thus fail to meet the new requirements;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments opposes the Mat-Su Borough School Districts new Valedictorian system and encourages the district to return to a traditional ranked honors system.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be taken and presented to the MSBSD school board.

The resolution passes with noted opposition.



AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer



AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh

Sources:

1. Bunch, Lesley. Personal Interview. April 21 2026.
2. School District, Matsu. "MSBSD Diploma Options." *Diploma Options*,
<https://www.matsuk12.us/instructional-departments/teaching-and-learning/diplomaoptions>.
3. "VALEDICTORIAN Definition & Meaning." *Merriam-Webster*,
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/valedictorian>. Accessed 22 April 2026.