



**Alaska Association of Student Governments**

**Resolution # 13**

**Resolution regarding the implementation of ELL programs at BHS**

**Submitted by: Barrow High School Student Council**

**Submitted September 22, 2018**

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

1. **Whereas**, Barrow High School does not have an efficient English Language Learner program to support our ELL students;
2. **Whereas**, Barrow High School does not offer an ELL English class specifically geared toward learning the fundamentals of the English language;
3. **Whereas**, of the current 219 high school students, 35 students have been identified as having limited proficiency in English, which accounts for 16% of the student body;
4. **Whereas**, the only students given the ELL assessment are students who have indicated on the enrollment application that there is a language other than English spoken in their home;
5. **Whereas**, of the population of students in the North Slope Borough School District, students' ethnic backgrounds are reported as 61.4% American Indian or Alaska Native, 13.5% two or more races, 10% Asian, 7.6% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 5.2% White, 1.6% Hispanic or Latino of any race, and 0.8% Black or African American;
6. **Whereas**, with the ethnic diversity also comes linguistic diversity;

7. **Whereas**, all classes, with the exception of Spanish and Inupiat, are taught entirely in English;
8. **Whereas**, classroom teachers are unable to adequately support ELL students due to the lack of a clearly articulated ELL policy from the NSBSD to support said ELL students;
9. **Whereas**, Barrow High School teachers have not received professional development to support ELL students in at least 3 consecutive school years;
10. **Whereas**, ELL programs have been proven to produce proficient English speaking students;
11. **Whereas**, ELL students who are put into a foreign environment such as Utqiagvik, have been set up to fail because of language barriers;
12. **Whereas**, in the 2016-2017 PEAKs standardized test, 87% of students in the North Slope Borough School District were identified as being “below proficient” in English (only 12% of all students in the NSBSD are proficient)<sup>1</sup>;
13. **Whereas**, being proficient in English is an integral skill to have in order to succeed in college and in the workforce;

**Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments General Assembly supports** that Barrow High School offer English Language Learner (ELL) classes to students.

**Action Statement:** This Resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to the following:

NSBSD Superintendent  
Mr. Stewart McDonald  
Email: [Stewart.McDonald@nsbsd.org](mailto:Stewart.McDonald@nsbsd.org)  
Office Phone:

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<sup>1</sup> Oliver, Shady Grove. “Arctic Students Fall Short of Test Standards.” *The Arctic Sounder RSS*, 8 Sept. 2017, [www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1736arctic\\_students\\_fall\\_short\\_of\\_test\\_standards](http://www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1736arctic_students_fall_short_of_test_standards).

NSBSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Liz Noble

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NSBSD School Board Secretary

Ms. Chelsie Overby

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Office Phone: (907)-852-5311

Works Cited:

“Civil Rights Data Collection .” *Summary of Selected Facts*; United States Government , 2015, [ocrdata.ed.gov/Page?t=s&eid=274768&syk=8&pid=2275](http://ocrdata.ed.gov/Page?t=s&eid=274768&syk=8&pid=2275).

Drake, Laura-Beth. Personal Interview. 26 April 2018.

Dye, Douglas. Personal Interview. 26 April 2018.

Oliver, Shady Grove. “Arctic Students Fall Short of Test Standards.” *The Arctic Sounder RSS*, 8 Sept. 2017, [www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1736arctic\\_students\\_fall\\_short\\_of\\_test\\_standards](http://www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1736arctic_students_fall_short_of_test_standards).

**Passed unanimously by the fall 2018 General Assembly at Skagway of the Alaska Association of Student Governments.**



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Vice President, Kyle Hasse



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Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson