



**Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #15**

**Replacement of AP Seminar Graduation Requirement with a Semester-Long seminar class
Course in MSBSD**

**Submitted by: Anneka Wilmot & Colony High School Student Government
Submitted: April 23, 2026**

Be it Resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the replacement of the AP Seminar graduation requirement with a semester-long seminar class course in the MSBSD.

1. **Whereas**, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District currently obliges all students to complete the AP Seminar course as a part of its graduation requirements;⁶
2. **Whereas**, AP stands for "Advanced Placement";⁸
3. **Whereas**, AP courses are typically more rigorous and specialized than standard high school courses;⁷
4. **Whereas**, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District currently requires 25.5 credits to graduate, which is 4.5 credits higher than minimum amount necessitated by the state of Alaska;^{6,7}
5. **Whereas**, AP courses were created to help college-bound students gain credit and experience before beginning university;⁸
6. **Whereas**, in 2024, only around 33% of Alaskans enrolled in a college or university after graduating high school;¹
7. **Whereas**, students forced to take AP courses often experience a lack of confidence due to feeling like they did not meet the standards, thus lowering their engagement in the class;⁴
8. **Whereas**, a lack of peer engagement lessens the learning experience for students who had voluntarily signed up for the course;³
9. **Whereas**, since AP Seminar is a required course, class sizes are typically over capacity;⁹
10. **Whereas**, a larger class size leads to less teacher focus on individual students,

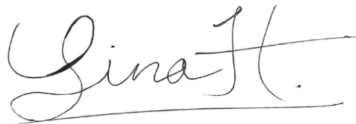
limiting the attention and help a student is able to receive;²

11. **Whereas**, a semester-long seminar class course rather than the full-year AP Seminar course would give students struggling to reach their credit requirements an additional opportunity to complete other obligatory classes;
12. **Whereas**, the AP Seminar course includes three major assessments, with a group presentation and an individual essay, an individual presentation and essay, and an end-of-year exam;⁵
13. **Whereas**, the seminar class course would imitate the structure of the AP Seminar course, including a one major group and individual project, but would do so at a smaller scale, allowing students to still retain key skills at a more accessible level;
14. **Whereas**, students would be able to fill their seminar class requirement with either AP Seminar or the semester-long seminar class course, thus lowering the number of students for both classes;
15. **Whereas**, students who willingly enrolled in the AP Seminar course would be able to have a more engaged class and focused teacher, thus bettering their experience with the class;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the option of the AP Seminar graduation requirement with a semester-long seminar class course in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.

Action Statement: If passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be presented to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board for their consideration.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent.



AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer



AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh

Sources:

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5. AP Seminar. (2021). *AP Seminar about the Advanced Placement Program (AP)*.
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1657037535/qsiorq/lrpmlxzwf56rjemjgwdo/ap-seminar-course-overview.pdf>
6. High School Graduation Requirements. (2023). Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District. <https://go.boarddocs.com/ak/matsu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C694WU0D9968>
7. High School Graduation Requirements (n.d). State of Alaska.
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<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/what-is-ap>
9. *When To Draw The Line with Class Size at Public Schools | Student Voice*. (n.d.).
<https://www.stuvoice.org/journalism/when-to-draw-the-line-with-class-size-at-public-sch>

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