



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #15
Allowing Students to Decorate their Graduation Caps
Submitted by: West Valley High School Student Council
Presented by: Mariana Low

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

1. **Whereas**, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District does not currently allow high school seniors to decorate their graduation caps unless it is cultural and approved by administration;
2. **Whereas**, graduation is the last event students participate in as high schoolers, and in turn, the last chance students will have to express themselves and stand out from their peers;
3. **Whereas**, besides graduates footwear, everyone wears the exact same outfit to walk the graduation stage;
4. **Whereas**, in many schools across the country, seniors decorate their caps to showcase their postsecondary plans, representing a reminder of the accomplishments of the last 4 years, and celebrate what the future holds;
5. **Whereas**, students self expression is incredibly important in times of celebration and major life milestones, such as graduation;
6. **Whereas**, getting to decorate and show off a cap may help to offset the inherent anxiety and stress of graduation and moving into adulthood;
7. **Whereas**, there would be strict parameters for grad cap decoration, such as no sharp objects and no inappropriate material, ensuring that there would be no safety threats to graduates or other attendees and all graduation caps would be authorized by the administration;
8. **Whereas**, the decoration of caps would eliminate issues with missing caps after the cap toss, because each would be unique;
9. **Whereas**, the decoration of grad caps would allow students to thank family members, teachers, and other significant people in their life by featuring them in their decoration;
10. **Whereas**, allowing grads to decorate their caps makes the event more memorable and fun to look back on;
11. **Whereas**, family members of graduates are able to see them better if they have a unique

design on their cap;

12. **Whereas**, the West Valley dress code states, “Students also have the right to dress in a manner that expresses an ethnic, religious, or political point of view.”¹
13. **Whereas**, the Hutchison High School Student Handbook states, “Per district policy: Absolutely no decorations, adornments or unauthorized sashes on graduation caps and gowns.”²
14. **Whereas**, the West Valley High School Principal supports this resolution.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Government supports that graduating high school seniors in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District be allowed to decorate their graduation caps in order to promote individuality and diversity as well as enhance the celebratory nature of graduation.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, we will take this resolution to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District for consideration.

Sources:

1. https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://www.k12northstar.org/cms/lib/AK01901510/Centricity/Domain/1203/WVH+SY22_23+Student+Handbook.pdf
2. <https://www.k12northstar.org/cms/lib/AK01901510/Centricity/Domain/5267/Hutch%20Student%20Handbook%202022%2023.docm.pdf>

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Fall 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by West Valley High School

Danika Hamm

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

Kathleen A. Navarre

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre