



Resolution # 17

Adaptation of the Anchorage School District's Freshmen

Career Exploration Curriculum and Course Implementation

Submitted by Eagle River High School

Submitted: April 24th, 2025

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the current Freshman Career Exploration (FCE) course will be transformed into a Student Learning Center (SLC) based program rather than a full semester elective.

1. **Whereas**, the Class of 2028, currently enrolled as Freshmen, are required to take a Career Exploration course instead of a social studies course for credit¹;
2. **Whereas**, according to the Anchorage School District (ASD) Program of Studies, FCE teaches “critical workplace skills, resume building, and more;”²
3. **Whereas**, the Freshman Academy Career Exploration Course is a transition course designed for ninth graders to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and their careers. It focuses on self discovery, study skills, life skills, and career knowledge through college and career readiness units of study. Guaranteed experience includes:
 - a. Freshman first day orientation
 - b. Career exposure day
 - c. University of Alaska Anchorage campus visit;
4. **Whereas**, ASD requires students to have a total of four Social Studies credits to graduate, including World History, U.S. History, one semester of Alaska Studies, one semester of United States Government, and one semester of a Social Studies elective;³

5. **Whereas**, with a lack of the BSA increase, ASD has proposed a series of budget cuts - namely, decreasing staff at all of the high schools in the district;
6. **Whereas**, Eagle River High School (ERHS) is projected to lose six full-time teachers for the 25-26 school year, which will increase the current pupil-to-teacher ratio from 1 to 35 to a ratio of 1 to 43;⁵
7. **Whereas**, ERHS is also losing electives such as Food Preparation and Choir, and, along with the rest of the district, gymnastics, hockey, and swim and dive;⁵
8. **Whereas**, the Freshman Career Exploration course has an underdeveloped curriculum and undertrained teachers due to its rushed creation in just under a year;
9. **Whereas**, Anchorage School District would benefit from returning to the fully developed and proven to be effective social studies elective courses, including Ancient Civilizations and Global Geography;
10. **Whereas**, to move forward with the four-year academy model, ASD needs to transform the current Freshman Career Exploration course to accommodate the SLC schedule already implemented at the majority of ASD high schools;
11. **Whereas**, for example, completion of Bree's Law is a requirement for all schools operating in the State of Alaska, and this required training is currently taught via an SLC schedule;
12. **Whereas**, the Freshmen Career Exploration course and Bree's Law could operate on a bimonthly schedule to ensure both programs are taught properly;⁴
13. **Whereas**, the SLC-based course would cover the same content but on a more concise basis, allowing students to learn necessary information in a timely manner;
14. **Whereas**, the SLC-based course would allow students to fit the classes required for graduation into their schedule;
15. **Whereas**, each grade would learn a different topic as they approached adulthood and the workforce;
16. **Whereas**, an example of the organization implementation could include freshmen focus on career exploration (as outlined in the current course), sophomores focus on job shadowing and professionalism in the workplace, juniors focus on financial literacy (W-4, FAFSA, and job applications), and seniors focus on preparing for life after high school (benefit packages, healthcare, cooking, mock interviews, etc.);⁴
17. **Whereas**, the new model would maintain the same intentions as the previous academy model, keeping Anchorage School District on track for the Academies of Anchorage pathway plan while saving resources and time in anticipation of implementing the ASD proposed budget cuts for FY25;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the current Anchorage School District's Freshmen Career Exploration course be revamped to

be given during the SLC block on Fridays and the former social studies elective be reinstated to high school curricula.

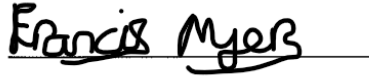
Action Statement: If passed by the Spring 2025 AASG General Assembly, this resolution will proceed to the ASD Student Advisory Board, the ASD Department of Teaching and Learning, and the ASD School Board for further discussion and implementation.

Sources

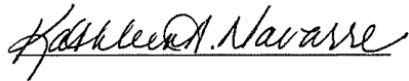
1. *Anchorage School District*, Academies of Anchorage, Apr. 2024, www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1507/Academies-Pathways-brochure.pdf.
2. “Social Studies / High School Curriculum.” *High School Curriculum*, Anchorage School District, www.asdk12.org/Page/5451. Accessed 24 Apr. 2025.
3. “2024-25 High School - Program of Studies.” *ASD Program of Studies*, Anchorage School District, www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1179/REV-2024-25_HSPOS_Accessible.pdf. Accessed 23 Apr. 2025.
4. Birtz, Jennifer. Eagle River High School Assistant Principal. “Freshmen Academies.” 21 Apr. 2025.
5. Russell, Shurtleff. Eagle River High School Assistant Principal. “Program of Studies.” 21 Apr. 2025.

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt
Edgecumbe High School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Navarre". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre