



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #2

Call to Safeguard Student Safety and Wellbeing in Alaska
Submitted by: Metlakatla High School Student Government
Submitted: April 20th, 2026

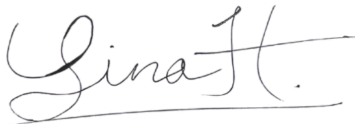
Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

1. **Whereas**, within the lifetimes of our current student population, suicide rates and suicidality have increased dramatically in Metlakatla and across Alaska;
2. **Whereas**, students at Metlakatla High School have struggled to find the confidence to seek help, and when they do, the resources they need are not always available;
3. **Whereas**, according to the Alaska Children’s Trust, at least 80% of youth with mental health issues have had their needs unmet;⁴
4. **Whereas**, according to Alaska Department of Health, Alaska’s rates of suicide mortality are much higher than the national average, and have increased since 2014. In 2023, the suicide mortality rate in Alaska was more than double the national average;²
5. **Whereas**, Alaskans in the age group of 11-14 and 15-19 have the highest rates of suicide attempt related Emergency Department visits;²
6. **Whereas**, according to data collected from the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control, Alaska ranks 45th out of all 50 states for teen suicide rates, and ranks 50th for overall suicide rates;¹
7. **Whereas**, according to the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), suicidality among Alaskan high school students has increased significantly over the past decade. 19% of Alaskan high school students reported attempting suicide in the past year, compared to only 8.7% in 2011. Additionally, 23% of Alaskan high school students “seriously considered attempting suicide” in the past year;³
8. **Whereas**, the 2023 YRBS also found a decrease in the general mental health of Alaska high school students. 43% reported feeling “sad or hopeless for such extended periods that they were not able to carry out some of their usual activities,” compared to just 25.9% in the 2011 survey;³

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that the Governor of Alaska use his authority under AS 26.23.020 to declare that a condition of disaster emergency exists in Alaska's schools as relates to mental health, suicide, and suicidality, and that the Alaska Legislature pass a joint resolution in either the house or senate to support this emergency by all means available to them.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the office of the Governor.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lina H." with a horizontal line underneath.

AASG Vice President, Lina Hischer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kassandra Mirosh" with a horizontal line underneath.

AASG Executive Director, Cassandra Mirosh

Sources:

1. “Explore Suicide in Alaska: Ahr.” America’s Health Rankings, United Health Foundation, www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Suicide/AK.
2. Morrison, Eric. “Alaska Suicide Facts & Statistics.” State of Alaska | Department of Health, Alaska Department of Health, health.alaska.gov/en/education/suicide-facts/.
3. Rosen, Yereth. “Survey of Alaska Youth Reveals More Mental Health Problems, but Also Some Positive Trends.” Alaska Public Media, 15 Dec. 2024, alaskapublic.org/news/2024-08-15/survey-of-alaska-youth-reveals-more-mental-health-problems-but-also-some-positive-trends.
4. “Youth Mental Health.” Alaska Children’s Trust, www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/youth-mental-health.