



Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #4
Establishing a Gender Neutral Bathroom for Colony High School Students
Submitted by: Charly Rentz
Submitted: 10/24/2021

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

- 1. Whereas,** both the current male and female designated bathrooms across from the Colony High School counselors' office would become a gender neutral bathroom and urinals and stalls would be available.
- 2. Whereas,** the only bathroom available to students that aren't comfortable using binary bathrooms is located in the nurse's office. Additionally, Colony High School was put on "Medium Risk" for COVID-19 on Wednesday October 6, 2021.¹ This raises sanitation and health concerns, especially now due to COVID-19.
- 3. Whereas,** the use of a private bathrooms can be stigmatizing to students who are not comfortable using binary bathrooms.³
- 4. Whereas,** students not comfortable using the set of gender neutral bathrooms have two other sets of bathrooms available for use. This can be an example to other schools throughout the district, as every school has three sets of bathrooms.
- 5. Whereas,** parents and students would be informed about the change via newsletter or email.
- 6. Whereas,** the budget needed for this change would be under \$100; the money would go towards gender neutral bathroom signs. All other changes are informational.
- 7. Whereas,** the Mat-Su Borough School District defines their goals as to:
 1. Improve student success, achievement, and performance.
 2. Develop excellent educators and leaders.

3. Use innovative practices to improve the education system.
4. Include families and community members in the education of our students.
6. Promote safe and healthy environments for all.²
8. **Whereas**, the National Association of Independent Schools in their “Transgender Students and School Bathrooms” document points out that many students are scared of using school bathrooms due to physical or emotional harassment they may experience. These experiences can severely impact a student’s health, well-being, and ability to learn.³
9. **Whereas**, research done by the GLSEN organization showed that two thirds of transgender students avoid school bathrooms due to feeling unsafe or uncomfortable.⁴
10. **Whereas**, the bathroom across from the counselors’ office can be supervised enough by staff to carry out their work duties *and* prevent harassment.
11. **Whereas**, several states and school districts such as Connecticut, Iowa, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Jefferson County School District in Kentucky have adopted policies that define the rights of transgender and gender expansive students.⁵
12. **Whereas**, several federal court cases have upheld Title IX’s inclusion of gender identity when in the context of gender neutral bathrooms.^{3, 4, 6}
13. **Whereas**, the term “gender neutral” does not exclude students within the binary; all students may use the gender neutral bathrooms regardless of gender identity. Furthermore, this establishment provides more restroom options to an already overpopulated school.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the two bathrooms next to the counselor’s office in Colony High School should be established as gender neutral bathrooms.

Action statement: This resolution, if approved by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to the following:

Colony High School Principal Brendon McMahon
[@bm08091@apps.matsuk12.us](mailto:bm08091@apps.matsuk12.us) The Mat-Su Borough School Board
[@msbsd@apps.matsuk12.us](mailto:msbsd@apps.matsuk12.us) The Mat-Su Borough School District
Superintendent [@rt024194@apps.matsuk12.us](mailto:rt024194@apps.matsuk12.us)

Sources:

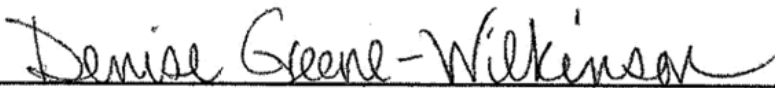
1. *Business & Operations - No Navigation / COVID-19 mitigation info*. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District / Homepage. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2021, from <https://www.matsuk12.us/coronavirus>.
2. *Mission and beliefs / board mission and beliefs*. Mission and Beliefs / Board Mission and Beliefs. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2021, from <https://www.matsuk12.us/domain/6238>.
3. *Transgender students and School Bathrooms - Nais*. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2021, from https://www.nais.org/media/MemberDocuments/Legal/NAIS_GenderSpectrum_Transgender_Students_School_Bathrooms.pdf
4. <https://www.glsen.org/blog/gender-neutral-bathrooms-are-radical-not-how-you-think>.
5. Prismic. (2020, April 7). *Excerpts Bathroom Policiesgender Spectrum*. Gender Spectrum. Retrieved October 23, 2021, from <https://genderspectrum.org/articles/excerpts-bathroom-policies>.

Li, L. (2021, May 7). *Federal Court rules that transgender students must be allowed to use bathrooms that match their gender*. CBS News. Retrieved October 23, 2021, from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/federal-court-rules-that-transgender-students-must-be-allowed-to-use-bathrooms-that-match-their-gender/>.

Passed by the 2021 Virtual Fall Conference GA Hosted by Palmer High School



AASG Vice President, Kamea VanDeventer



AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson