Alaska Association of Student Governments
Resolution #4
Allowing Students To Decorate Graduation Caps In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Submitted by: Gracie Peterson with Wasilla High School

Submitted on: September 25, 2026

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the decoration of grad caps shall be permitted in the MSBSD under a policy to be adopted and administered by each school.

1. **Whereas,** according to the MSBSD graduation handbook "Decorated graduation caps are not allowed unless it falls under the guideline listed above";[1]
2. **Whereas,** the guideline listed above states "Students may wear traditional objects of tribal regalia or recognized objects of cultural significance";[1]
3. **Whereas,** prior to the 2018-2019 school year, the decision to decorate graduation caps was up to the individual schools;[1]
4. **Whereas,** in 2018 a student of Palmer High School decorated and wore the confederate flag custom decorated, on her graduation cap which is why we are no longer able to decorate graduation caps;[5]
5. **Whereas,** there is currently no board policy in the MSBSD about not decorating graduation caps;
6. **Whereas,** according to Wasilla High's principal Karen Bloxsom the MSBSD school board was not aware of statement 5;
7. **Whereas,** according to Karen Bloxsom there is talk of officially making the grad cap decoration ban a board policy;[1]
8. **Whereas,** decorating grad caps is a form of creative self expression and a way to show identity;[2] [3]
9. **Whereas,** creative self expression can be beneficial as it positively impacts one's mental health;[4]
10. **Whereas,** schools can reinforce rules, regulations, and punishments pertaining to

grad cap decorating as to not have another scandal;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports students decorating their graduation caps in the MSBSD under a policy to be adopted and administered by each school.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought to the MSBSD school board and Wasilla High's administration for consideration.

The resolution passes with noted opposition.

Sarah Todd

AASG Vice President, Sarah Todd

Kassandra Mirosh

AASG Executive Director, Kassandra Mirosh

Sources:

1. Bloxsom, K. (2026, September 16). Talking about grad caps [Interview]. School.
2. Decorated mortarboards: An introduction | center for folklore studies. (2016). Osu.Edu. https://cfs.osu.edu/archives/collections/gradcaptraditions/decorated-mortarboards-introduction
3. Decorated mortarboards: An introduction | center for folklore studies. (2016). Osu.Edu. https://cfs.osu.edu/archives/collections/gradcaptraditions/decorated-mortarboards-introduction
4. Kumar, V., KS Pavitra, & Bhattacharya, R. (2024). Creative pursuits for mental health and well-being. Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 66(Suppl 2), S283–S303. https://doi.org/10.4103/indianjpsychiatry.indianjpsychiatry_781_23
5. Staff. (2018, June 5). Controversy over Palmer High Grad Sporting confederate flag design on Cap. Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman. https://www.frontiersman.com/controversy-over-palmer-high-grad-sporting-confederate-f

lag-design-on-cap/