



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution #4

Advocating for Choir Programs in Anchorage

Submitted by: Frontier Charter School, Ian Utic, and Legacy Walker

Submitted: 04/24/2025

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

1. **Whereas**, choir programs at schools in Anchorage, have historically provided valuable educational and developmental benefits to students, contributing to their academic success and personal growth;^{4,6}
2. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School District (ASD) is facing significant financial challenges, leading to proposed cuts in various programs, including choir, as part of an effort to address a projected budget shortfall of over \$100 million;^{2,5}
3. **Whereas**, studies have shown that participation in music programs like choir leads to increased academic achievement, improved cognitive abilities, and better emotional well-being for students, particularly in areas such as language skills and mathematics;¹
4. **Whereas**, choir programs are accessible to a wide range of students, regardless of socioeconomic status, and offer a low-cost alternative for students who may not have access to private music lessons or instruments⁴;
5. **Whereas**, the loss of choir programs would disproportionately affect students who depend on school-based arts programs for exposure to creative outlets, teamwork, and cultural enrichment;
6. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School Board has indicated that if state education funding is increased, programs like choir could potentially be reinstated;^{3,6}
7. **Whereas**, each period of choir can fit a large amount of students without issue, helping to decrease the Pupil Teacher Ratio for other classes;²

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that AASG supports the restoration of choir programs in Anchorage schools, recognizing their significant impact on student development and the overall educational experience;

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be submitted to the Anchorage School District Board and local government officials to advocate for the reinstatement of choir programs.

Works Cited

1. Bame, Madeline M. *An Examination of the Relationship Between Music Education Participation and Graduation Rate in Title I Schools in North Carolina*. Gardner-Webb Univeristy,
[https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=lot-smc#:~:text=Schools%20with%20music%20programs%20had,percent%20\(NAFME%2C%202009\)](https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1024&context=lot-smc#:~:text=Schools%20with%20music%20programs%20had,percent%20(NAFME%2C%202009).). Accessed 20 April 2025.
2. Goodykoontz, Emily. "Anchorage School Board makes broad cuts to staff, programs and sports in next year's budget." *Anchorage Daily News*, 26 February 2025,
<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/education/2025/02/26/anchorage-school-board-makes-broad-cuts-to-staff-programs-and-sports-in-next-years-budget/>.
3. National Endowment for the Arts. *The National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Education*. March 2020,
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEA-Arts-Education-Infographic-March2020.pdf>.
4. Rockey, Tim. "Here's what could happen next with the Anchorage school budget cuts." *Alaska Public Media*, 28 February 2025,
<https://alaskapublic.org/news/education/2025-02-28/heres-what-could-happen-next-with-t-he-anchorage-school-budget-cuts>.

5. Rockey, Tim. "Proposed Anchorage School District budget includes massive cuts, facing \$111M deficit." *Alaska Public Media*, 3 February 2025,
<https://alaskapublic.org/news/education/2025-02-03/proposed-anchorage-school-district-budget-includes-massive-cuts-facing-111m-deficit>.

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis Myers", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Navarre", written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre