



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #5

Resolution to Allow College Classes to be Weighted on a 5.0 Scale in High School

Submitted by: Frontier Charter School

October 13, 2023

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

1. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School District's (ASD) focus is making all students college and career/life ready¹;
2. **Whereas**, increasing the number of students taking advanced courses is part of ASD's initiative to make students college ready¹;
3. **Whereas**, over 70% of living wage jobs will require an education beyond a high school diploma¹;
4. **Whereas**, ASD strives to ensure that students are academically prepared to access postsecondary learning opportunities¹;
5. **Whereas**, empowering students to seek part- or full-time dual enrollment at a university or college provides them with access to postsecondary learning opportunities and prepares them for future postsecondary learning opportunities;
6. **Whereas**, taking a college course instead of an AP class in high school enables students to familiarize themselves with college processes, establishes the expectations of college courses, and helps prepare them for a full-time college workload;
7. **Whereas**, taking a college course for one semester necessarily means an ASD student will earn two semesters worth of high school credit and one semester of college credit;
8. **Whereas**, taking an AP class for one semester necessarily means an ASD student will earn one semester of high school credit;
9. **Whereas**, taking an AP class for one semester does not necessarily mean a student will earn any college credit;
10. **Whereas**, AP classes are modeled after college courses²;

11. **Whereas**, all of ASD's AP classes have undergone a "course audit"^{2,3};
12. **Whereas**, the purpose of this audit is to ensure that AP teachers are aware of the AP class's scope, content, and the skills colleges expect students to develop in an AP class³;
13. **Whereas**, the purpose of AP classes is to enable willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies and to develop the knowledge and skills required for college credit and placement while still in high school^{2,3};
14. **Whereas**, taking college courses enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue collegiate studies, to develop the knowledge and skills required for college placement, and to earn college credit while still in high school;
15. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, AP classes are weighted on a student's transcript;
16. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, earning an A in an AP class is equivalent to a 5.0 instead of a 4.0 on a student's transcript⁴;
17. **Whereas**, AP classes are weighted in such a manner due to the advanced nature of their content, allowing academically prepared students to take advanced courses with less risk to lowering their GPA;
18. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, college courses are unweighted on a student's transcript;
19. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, earning an A in college courses is only equivalent to a 4.0 on a student's transcript;
20. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, students are academically penalized for taking a college course instead of ASD's AP classes by nature of how the courses are weighted on the students' transcripts;
21. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, students are being academically incentivized to **NOT** pursue these postsecondary learning opportunities while in high school by nature of how the courses are weighted;
22. **Whereas**, currently in ASD, college courses are weighted as though they are equivalent to a standard high school class and less rigorous than AP classes;
23. **Whereas**, allowing college courses to be weighted equally with AP classes would reflect the true nature of the academic rigor of college courses;
24. **Whereas**, allowing college courses to be weighted equally with AP classes would promote educational justice and equity amongst the students currently being academically penalized for pursuing postsecondary learning opportunities;
25. **Whereas**, allowing college courses to be weighted equally with AP classes would academically incentivize all students to pursue these postsecondary learning opportunities and prepare themselves for future postsecondary learning opportunities;
26. **Whereas**, allowing college courses to be weighted equally with AP classes would allow students to participate in a broader range of academically rigorous courses without as much risk to their GPA;
27. **Whereas**, "17% of students with a 3.5 or higher GPA win private scholarships, compared with 13.1% of students with a 3.0 to a 3.4 GPA, 10.4% of students with a 2.5 to a 2.9

GPA, 8.3% of students with a 2.0 to 2.4 GPA, and 7.0% of students with less than a 2.0 GPA.⁵;

28. **Whereas**, a student with higher GPA is more likely to qualify for scholarships,
29. **Whereas**, scholarships make college more accessible, affordable, and equitable, thus giving a student the greatest chance to be college, career, and life ready;
30. **Whereas**, earning college credits in high school shortens the length of time a student must spend in college, thus reducing the cost of college;
31. **Whereas**, reducing the cost and time of a two- or four-year college degree provides students with resources to pursue postsecondary learning opportunities beyond a standard college degree;
32. **Whereas**, college classes are paid for by ASD;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the promotion of justice and equity in education by allowing college courses to be weighted equally with AP classes in ASD, incentivizing students to pursue numerous postsecondary learning opportunities, and preparing students for future postsecondary learning opportunities.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be sent to the Anchorage School District, the State Board of Education, and other Alaska School Districts, upon request, for consideration of ratification.

Sources:

1. <https://www.asdk12.org/CCL>
2. <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/ap-a-glance>
3. <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-course-audit/about>
4. <https://www.academicapproach.com/what-are-ap-classes/#:~:text=Rather%20than%20the%20traditional%204.0,apart%20when%20applying%20to%20colleges>
5. <https://www.savingforcollege.com/article/college-scholarships-statistics>

The resolution passes with noted opposition

Passed by the Fall 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by West Valley High School

Danika Hamm

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

Kathleen A. Navarre

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre