



Alaska Association of Student Government

Resolution # 5

Subsistence Absence Days

Submitted by: Skagway Student Council

Ryder Calver & Sam Munson

Submitted: 10/22/25

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: The Skagway School District should provide students with 7 subsistence day absences per semester.

1. **Whereas,** Skagway School District students are only eligible for 15 excused or unexcused absences, from each class, in one semester¹;
2. **Whereas,** If a student is absent from school for more than 15 days in a semester, they must either receive an attendance waiver from the superintendent, or they will not receive credit for that class¹;
3. **Whereas,** If a student is absent from school for over 20 days, their parents must fill out a School Attendance Waiver Form, documenting why their child missed school, which will be discussed and voted on by the school board¹;
4. **Whereas,** The only way students can get an attendance waiver is for medical reasons, family emergencies, and special circumstances which are defined as religious observation, court appearance, and academic or athletic activities¹;
5. **Whereas,** Subsistence is federally defined as: “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; and for the customary trade, barter or sharing for personal or family consumption.”²;
6. **Whereas,** Students who engage in subsistence hunting, fishing, or gathering quickly reach the maximum amount of allowed absences;

7. **Whereas,** A student is ineligible to receive class credits in the event of sickness, further absence due to travel, or unspecified circumstances causing the students to miss class time without a waiver if they have reached the maximum allowed amount of absences¹;
8. **Whereas,** according to the USDA, 98% of rural Alaskans catch, hunt, or gather wild foods or renewable resources³;
9. **Whereas,** the extreme majority of big game hunting and trapping seasons take place during the school year from August to May, this includes but is not limited to: moose, deer, bear, mountain goat, sheep, and essentially all furbearing animals;
10. **Whereas,** A more inclusive policy would allow students to be absent 7 additional days a semester to participate in activities that fall under the state definition of subsistence activities;

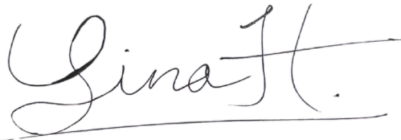
Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the Skagway School District providing students with 7 subsistence days per semester.

Action Statement: If passed, this resolution will be presented to the Skagway School District Board, urging them to incorporate subsistence days into their attendance policy to better serve students.

Sources:

1. Student Handbook 2024.pdf. “Student Handbook 2024.Pdf.” *Google Docs*, 2024, drive.google.com/file/d/1ldAR_i_XBHKOzxZUxxz0qQIMT_abLxxp/view. Accessed 26 Sep. 2025.
2. “Subsistence | Bureau of Land Management.” *Blm.gov*, 25 Oct. 2016, www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/subsistence. Accessed 28 Sep. 2025.
3. “Climate Change and Wild Foods in Alaska | USDA Climate Hubs.” *Www.climatehubs.usda.gov*, www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northwest/topic/climate-change-and-wild-foods-alaska. Accessed 26. Sep. 2025.

*The resolution passes with unanimous consent
Passed by the Fall 2025 General Assembly of AASG*

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