



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #6

2022 Plan to Amend ASD Valedictorian Qualifications

Submitted by: Eagle River High School (Jazzie Trotter, Reese Woodward, and AJ Szewczyk)

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the Anchorage School District valedictorian requirements be amended to require students to spend at least the second semester of their junior year at their designated high school before being eligible for consideration for valedictorian of said high school.

- 1. Whereas,** the Anchorage School District (ASD) includes schools in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Girdwood;
- 2. Whereas,** Grade Point Average (GPA) is a standardized way of measuring academic achievement. The Anchorage School District uses a 4.0 scale where an A is a 4.0, B is a 3.0, C is a 2.0, etc.;
- 3. Whereas,** Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) are college-level high school courses that are weighted when calculating GPA; an A is a 5.0, a B is a 4.0, a C is a 3.0, etc.;
- 4. Whereas,** the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is the largest university in Alaska;
- 5. Whereas,** the Alaska Middle College School (AMCS) is a collaboration between UAA and ASD to provide college credit for high school classes;
- 6. Whereas,** the valedictorian has the highest GPA in their class and gives a speech at graduation;
- 7. Whereas,** the valedictorian is a singular representation of an entire graduating class of students;
- 8. Whereas,** students that transfer in senior year often do not accurately represent the graduating class as they have not shared a high school experience with their peers;
- 9. Whereas,** the position of valedictorian is more competitive in the contiguous United States;

10. **Whereas**, schools in the contiguous United States often offer more weighted classes, like AP and IB, than ASD schools;
11. **Whereas**, the wider availability of weighted classes can create an imbalance of opportunity for ASD students compared to students from the contiguous United States;
12. **Whereas**, students that were not in consideration for valedictorian at their previous school in the Lower '48 could transfer and become valedictorian, impacting the status of the current top students at said high school;
13. **Whereas**, students in the top 1% of their previous graduating class would be exempt from this rule, should they transfer their senior year;
14. **Whereas**, recent ASD policy changes to be instituted in the fall of 2023 allow for UAA and AMCS classes to count as fives on a 4.0 weighted GPA scale;
15. **Whereas**, AMCS juniors could transfer into a regular ASD school with a hyperinflated GPA for their senior year, which would impact the class rank of current students at that school who could not/did not attend AMCS;
16. **Whereas**, a student who transferred to an ASD school before the start of the second semester of their junior year would be eligible for valedictorian;
17. **Whereas**, if a student transferred to an ASD school after the start of the second semester of their junior year or before the start of their senior year and were in the top 1% of their previous class, they would be eligible for valedictorian;
18. **Whereas**, if a student transferred to an ASD school after the start of the second semester of their junior year or before the start of their senior year and were NOT in the top 1% of their previous class, they would not be eligible for valedictorian;
19. **Whereas**, an incoming senior would still be eligible for salutatorian should they be exempt from valedictorian;

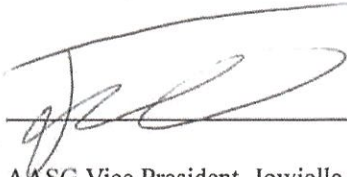
Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments the Anchorage School District valedictorian requirements be amended to require students to spend at least the second semester of their junior year at their designated high school before being eligible for consideration for valedictorian of said high school.

Action Statement: This resolution if passed by the General Assembly of Fall 2022 AASG, will proceed to the Anchorage School District School Board for further discussion and possible implementation.

Works Cited

Danzig, Christopher. "Should Transfer Students Be Allowed to Be Valedictorians?" *Above the Law*, 14 May 2012, abovethelaw.com/2012/05/should-transfer-students-be-allowed-to-be-valedictorians/.
"Student Handbooks / High School Graduation Requirements." / *High School Graduation Requirements*, www.asdk12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=6630.
"Student Handbooks / Student Handbooks." / www.asdk12.org/students/handbooks/.

Passed by the Fall 2022 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Wasilla High School



AASG Vice President, Jowielle Corpuz



AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre