



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #7

Exploratory Weeks at Haines High School

Submitted by: Selby Long, Haines High School Student Council

April 22, 2025

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: AASG supports the implementation of “Exploratory Weeks” offering alternative activities for Haines High School Students on a recurring basis.

- 1. Whereas,** during the Region V Basketball Tournament, two basketball teams as well as the cheer team and pep band travel leaving only about 41% of total high school students in Haines during the tournament in 2025¹;
- 2. Whereas,** because of this high level of absence, Haines High School implements “Mini Week” where students have the opportunity to take a class schedule full of electives not offered in the normal curriculum;
- 3. Whereas,** these classes vary by year and may include things such as:
 - a. Baking and Cooking;
 - b. Volunteer and Service Projects;
 - c. Beading, Pottery and Wood Burning;
 - d. Engineering Challenges;
- 4. Whereas,** although Mini Week provides a unique opportunity for students to engage with speciality classes, students who travel to the Region V Tournament never get to experience these weeks;
- 5. Whereas,** Haines High School is a small school with limited elective opportunities, with Mini Week being one of the few times students are able to experience multiple out of the ordinary electives;
- 6. Whereas,** out of the Haines High School Student Body, when surveyed, 54% of respondents had previously attended Mini Week while 46% had not²;

7. **Whereas**, out of those respondents who had not attended, 100% of students wanted the opportunity to participate in something similar²;
8. **Whereas**, out of those respondents who had attended, 100% of students wanted the opportunity to participate in something similar again²;
9. **Whereas**, when asked what types of activities students would like to participate in, respondents gave answers such as baking, yoga, dancing, hiking, water polo and more²;
10. **Whereas**, there are many benefits to scheduling alternative “fun” days including:
 - a. Positive association with time spent in school;
 - b. An opportunity to form relationships with peers;
 - c. Chances to discover niche skills and interests;
 - d. Breaking up the monotony of class schedules and reducing stress;
 - e. Promoting student creativity, etc.;
11. **Whereas**, the students of Haines High School would like to implement additional “Exploratory Weeks” that mirror the structure of Mini Week but occur when more students are present;
12. **Whereas**, the implementation of Exploratory Weeks aligns with HBSD’s 2024 Strategic Plan which puts importance on creating engaging curriculum and aligning with the mission of place-based education³;
13. **Whereas**, the Strategic Plan includes that, “Graduates should have a strong sense of place within their community and be aware of local resources, demonstrating a commitment to their surroundings” as well as “the district emphasizes collaboration and partnership, both within the school community and with external stakeholders, to provide enriching opportunities for students”³;
14. **Whereas**, Exploratory Weeks would be developed in collaboration with school teachers and experts from within the community;
15. **Whereas**, we would like to implement these weeks into the academic calendar beginning with once every semester, and possibly adding more if they prove to be beneficial;
16. **Whereas**, unlike Mini Week, Exploratory Weeks would be scheduled during times not heavily impacted by student travel when the majority of students are present;
17. **Whereas**, the weeks of October 13-15th 2025 and April 20-23rd 2026 would work well as dates to implement these Exploratory Weeks because:
 - a. These weeks fall in the ideal mid-point between long breaks to revitalize student energy and enthusiasm;
 - b. These weeks also contain teacher inservice days (2 days for October, 1 for April), allowing for students to engage in Exploratory activities but not miss an excess of normal class time;
18. **Whereas**, the full content and scheduling of this week would be developed by the administrative team and high school teaching staff in collaboration with other local resources and experts;

19. Whereas, our goal with this resolution is not to present a fully structured program but to garner support from Alaska students for this opportunity and gather thoughts and ideas on how to best formulate this opportunity for our students;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the implementation of Exploratory Weeks into the Haines High School curriculum so students can engage in alternative learning activities and discover new electives not usually offered through the school.

Action Statement: If passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought to the Haines High School administration for their consideration of implementation.

Sources:

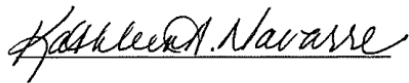
1. Haines Borough School District. 2025 Attendance Records.
2. Long, Selby. “Exploratory Week Survey.” Unpublished Survey, April 16, 2025.
3. Haines Borough School District. “HBSD 2024 Strategic Plan.” PDF.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bo2zQGXTMYOCjjXQaPOaTEAI8BcgjyW/view>

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen A. Navarre". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre