



**Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Resolution # 9  
Allowing Headwear at Highland Academy  
Submitted by: Highland Academy  
October 26, 2021**

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

1. **Whereas**, headwear includes hats and hoods;
2. **Whereas**, the term “inappropriate attire” is ambiguous in regard to headwear in the ASD Middle School and High School Handbooks;
3. **Whereas**, the prohibition of headwear is not currently in the Highland Academy student handbook;
4. **Whereas**, other ASD elementary, middle, and high schools (including but not limited to Service, Polaris, StREaM, and Bartlett ) allow headwear;
5. **Whereas**, students can easily be identified by other clothing and mannerisms, especially given the small population of our school;
6. **Whereas**, during past spirit weeks, when headwear was allowed, there was rarely an issue;

7. **Whereas**, if the headwear becomes a distraction, a teacher can ask the student to remove it or can confiscate it;
8. **Whereas**, rules are not enforced uniformly. For example, “good” students are not asked to take off their hats/hoods while “bad” students are;
9. **Whereas**, if a student wears a hat that promotes a political belief not supported by the Highland staff, that student is more likely to be asked to remove it;
10. **Whereas**, headwear is beneficial in colder weather conditions;
11. **Whereas**, headwear can make the wearer feel more comfortable and boosts morale;<sup>7</sup>
12. **Whereas**, headwear can help certain individuals cope with sensory issues,<sup>8</sup>
13. **Whereas**, a number of students in our school already have a headwear exception due to anxiety or sensory issues, and this benefit should be available to all students;
14. **Whereas**, headwear can help students with anxiety feel more safe and less agitated;<sup>8</sup>
15. **Whereas**, headwear is used as a means of self-expression and self-identity;<sup>8</sup>
16. **Whereas**, according to Bob Levey of the *Washington Post*, disallowing hats in schools “embitter[s] the child and poison[s] the atmosphere;”<sup>6</sup>
17. **Whereas**, headwear can help a student cover up a bad hair day, a bad haircut, or hygiene issues due to neglect;
18. **Whereas**, this is the third time we will be submitting a resolution about this issue because it is important to our student population;

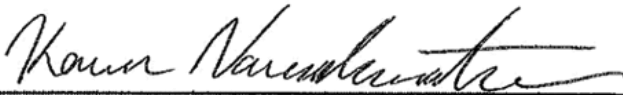
**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments** supports a change in the rule to allow students to wear headwear during school hours.

**Action Statement:** if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to Principal Ms. Amelia Johnson and Assistant Principal Ms. Nicole Crosby of Highland Academy.

Sources:

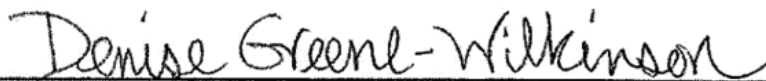
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3. "Student Handbook Insert." Highland Academy, 2021.
4. "Dress Code." *Bartlett High School Guidelines*, p.10, [view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asdk12.org%2Fcms%2Flib%2FAK02207157%2FCentricity%2FDomain%2F78%2FStudent%2520Handbook.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](http://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.asdk12.org%2Fcms%2Flib%2FAK02207157%2FCentricity%2FDomain%2F78%2FStudent%2520Handbook.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK). Accessed 14 Oct. 2021.
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7. Woody, Jessica. "Why Morale Boosters Work and Why You Need Them." *Simply Imperfect Counselor*, 2021, <https://simplyimperfectcounselor.com/why-morale-boosters-work-and-why-you-need-the-m/>. Accessed 14 Oct. 2021.
8. "Do hoodies help with anxiety? (A complete look)." *Optimistic Minds*, 25 June 2021, [optimistminds.com/do-hoodies-help-with-anxiety/](http://optimistminds.com/do-hoodies-help-with-anxiety/). Accessed 14 Oct. 2021.
9. "Sensory Issues." *Autism Speaks*, [www.autismspeaks.org/sensory-issues](http://www.autismspeaks.org/sensory-issues). Accessed 14 Oct. 2021.

Passed Unanimously by the 2021 Virtual Fall Conference GA Hosted by Palmer High School



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AASG Vice President, Kamea VanDeventer



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AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson