

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASDR 2016-2017-17

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORLD LANGUAGE AND ALASKA NATIVE
LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the ASD's mission is to educate all students for success in life, including preparing students for a diverse and multilingual global community;

WHEREAS, the ASD currently has approximately 2,500 students in grades K-12 enrolled in a language immersion program (in Chinese, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish);

WHEREAS, approximately an additional 5,500 ASD middle and high school students are enrolled in a world language course, levels I through Advanced Placement (AP) (including ASL, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, or Spanish);

WHEREAS, ASD strongly supports world language instruction and language immersion education, and supports efforts that will result in more quality language immersion education programs in the district and the state;

WHEREAS, ASD continuously struggles to find qualified teachers for its world languages and immersion programs that possess the required level of language proficiency and who are also able to fulfill the state's teacher certification requirements;

WHEREAS, Alaska's current teacher certification laws contribute to the difficulty school districts have in hiring quality language immersion instructors

WHEREAS, providing school districts greater flexibility in the hiring of language immersion teachers would make districts, including ASD, more able to offer and expand high-quality and highly-sought-after language immersion programs;

WHEREAS, expanding the scope of the existing Type M and Type I limited teacher certificates, as proposed in HB 102 and SB 75, would allow ASD to hire qualified native speakers of non-English languages that it currently struggles to hire;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that ASD supports legislation such as HB 102 and SB 75 that will provide greater flexibility for school districts to fill teaching positions in world and Alaska Native language immersion programs;

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of March 2017.

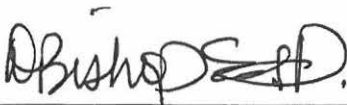
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