



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the School Board

Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 11-011

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOMMENDING CIVICS BE A REQUIRED COURSE IN ALASKA'S PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States; and

WHEREAS, too many people in the United States fail tests of civic literacy; and

WHEREAS, many high school students know little of our founding fathers and their contributions to our country and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of eligible voters voting in local and State elections is unacceptably low; and

WHEREAS, fewer than half of all people in the United States can name the three branches of the United States Government or know the differences and duties; and

WHEREAS, our democratic process and republican form of government are at risk due to the low voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, research shows that an increase in civic knowledge, including that of the United States Constitution, supporting documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights almost invariably leads to the beneficial use of that knowledge; and

WHEREAS, research shows that greater civic learning leads to more active citizenship, and people in the United States who fulfill their civic obligations beyond voting are more knowledgeable about their country's history and institutions:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, it is the position of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District that:

1. High school students across Alaska should be required to take at least .5 credit of civics that focuses on learning about the Alaska Constitution, the United States Constitution and documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers, acknowledgment of these historic documents which constitute the very foundation of our state and country, is critical to being an responsible citizen and that this class also includes non-partisan and detailed information about the branches and functions of local, state and US government; their differences, the duties of elected officials and the judiciary, public elections, political parties and duties of US citizens as voters, and
2. Upon reaching voting age, high school seniors should engage in civic learning activities on an issue of importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is also the position of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District that the State of Alaska adopt by law the requirement that each high school student be required to successfully complete .5 credit of civics with the founding documents as a basis of such a requirement as a condition for graduation.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board this 2nd day of February, 2011.


Michael Dunleavy, Board President


Kenneth Stephen Burnley Ph.D., Superintendent

ATTEST:


Stacy Escobedo, Board Secretary