



Alaska Native Education Association
c/o B. Y. Alvanna-Stimpfle
P.O. Box 729
Nome, Alaska 99762
<http://aneaonline.org/>

**ANEA BOARD
MEMBERS, BY
REGION**

The mission of ANEA is to enhance, promote, and advocate for all Alaska Native cultures, values, languages, and traditions in the educational entities throughout Alaska.

January 25, 2012

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Senator Donny Olson
State Capitol Bldg. Rm. 508
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Senator Olson,

The Alaska Native Educators Association (ANEA) Board is in favor of the SB 130. The ANEA Board was formed to provide a means to discuss issues facing Alaska Native students and is comprised of lifelong educators, representing most regions in Alaska. At the present time the Aleutian and Southeast region board seats are open and will be filled at our annual conference. Having no funding as an organization, we have had to piggyback with other conferences, specifically the Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference (BMEEC). It is without a doubt that the longest standing issue in Alaska Native education is our Alaska Native languages.

Although the ANEA Board is a volunteer board, we are very active and dedicated to our youth as well as perpetuating our Alaska Native languages. Most of us have dedicated our lives to revitalizing our Alaska Native languages, doing what is needed to uphold our language and culture. As past and present certified teachers, we have taught Alaska Native language and culture, fitting it into mainstream classes within the educational system where ever we could. Some of us have created curricula in each of our perspective regions, which includes the Alaska Native culture and language. In the 1990's some of the ANEA Board members worked with Dr. Ray Barnhardt in developing the Alaska Native Cultural Standards with the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative (AKRSI) grant, until the grant lapsed. Most currently, we have worked with Phyllis Carlson, Director of Alaska Rural Education, on the development of a rubric, based on the Alaska Native Cultural Standards. The rubric measures how well classroom teachers are integrating the Cultural Standards into their classrooms. In spite of not having her own state budget for her department, Phyllis has managed to obtain funding from SERRC for us to work together several times throughout 2011, starting from December of 2010. The rubric is near completion but we feel we still need to meet face to face once more to finalize it and to work on a survey that will go with it on a statewide basis. We have partnered with the Future Educators of Alaska (FEA) and often hold a workshop in their conferences or they sponsor us in a workshop for the youth section during BMEEC. Another organization we have partnered with is the Alaska Native Teacher Preparation Program (ANTPP), a grant that was obtained by UAF. Lastly but not least, several ANEA Board members have participated in the Quality Teachers meetings headed by DEED.

ANEA firmly believes that it is vital to retain and develop Alaska Native languages. Current research supports the premise that personal persistence and identity which includes Alaska Native language development reduces suicide, as it is a concrete contribution to self-continuity. Studies show that whenever there are students taking Alaska Native language immersion classes, they thrive in all areas of study. We have seen it in our students, some of which are being chosen to participate in the state science fairs or math competitions; taking student leadership roles as high school students; and to becoming leaders in our communities.

ANEA Board supports Senate Bill 130.

Quyanaqpak, quyaana, kunish 'gish, anabase' for taking our written testimony.
Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, ANEA Co-chair
Mary White, ANEA Co-chair

Cc: ANEA Board members: Teresa Schneider, Nita Rearden, Martha Stackhouse, Esther Ilutsik, Shirley Tuzroyluke