

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #225 (2015-2016)

April 4, 2016

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: TAM AGOSTI-GISLER, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR,  
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

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

ASD Core Value: *Public education should be responsive to an ever-changing world.*

RECOMMENDATION:

The Communications Committee recommends the Anchorage School Board approve and adopt the attached resolution in support of World Language and Alaska Native Language Immersion programs by expanding the scope of the existing Type M teacher certificate.

PERTINENT FACTS:

- The Anchorage School District's mission is to educate all students for success in life, including preparing students for a diverse and multilingual global community.
- The district strongly supports world language instruction with approximately 2,400 students in grades K-12 currently enrolled in a language immersion program (in German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish; Chinese will be added in the fall of 2016).
- Alaska's current teacher certification laws contribute to the difficulty school districts have in hiring quality language immersion instructors.
- Providing school districts greater flexibility in the hiring of language immersion teachers by expanding the scope of the existing Type M teacher certificate would make districts, including ASD, more able to offer and expand high-quality and highly-sought-after language immersion programs.

- The district supports legislation HB 157 and SB 84 that will provide greater flexibility for school districts to fill teaching positions in world and Alaska Native language immersion programs.

TAG/kg

Prepared and approved by: Tam Agosti-Gisler, Communications  
Committee Chair

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ASDR 2015-2016-16

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORLD LANGUAGE**

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 2,400 students in grades K-12 enrolled in a language immersion program (in German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish; Chinese will be added in the fall of 2016);

WHEREAS, approximately 2172 (or 24%) of ASD middle school students are enrolled in a world language course and 5255 (or 42%) of ASD high school students are enrolled in a world language course;

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

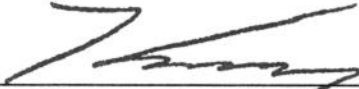
WHEREAS, providing school districts greater flexibility in the hiring of language immersion teachers would make districts, including ASD, more able to offer and expand high-quality and highly-sought-after language immersion programs;

WHEREAS, expanding the scope of the existing Type M teacher certificate, as proposed in HB 157 and SB 84, 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 157 and SB 84 that will provide greater flexibility for school districts to fill teaching positions in world and Alaska Native language immersion programs;

PASSED AND APPROVED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kameron Perez-Verdía, president

Tam Agosti-Gisler  
Eric Croft  
Bettye Davis

Pat Higgins  
Kathleen Plunkett  
Elisa Snelling

  
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Ed Graff, Superintendent