



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-59

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE TEACHING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WITH FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska recognizes all Alaska Native languages as official languages and sets the mandatory curriculum for all Alaskan school through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; and
- WHEREAS:** A student's knowledge of the Alaska Native language relevant to their area fosters pride in their identity and promotes a sense of belonging at school and in their community and communities do not currently have adequate access to Alaska Native language education; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages relevant to each school or area can be taught alongside education and treated as an equal in importance to all other subjects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request of the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development implement a one-year foreign language requirement with funding for graduation from all Alaska high school that includes Alaska Native languages.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND
YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED