



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-Fourth Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 10-12, 2019  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 19-04

Title: Support for Early Childhood Education and Language Immersion Programs for All Grades

By: Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 31,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida prioritizes the need of an adequate pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the performance of Alaska Native/American Indian students are recorded in the summative statewide assessment of 3rd through 9th graders, known as Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS), which shows that in 2017-2018 with a pool of 15,537 Alaska Native/American Indian students, 82% of those students scored below to far below proficient compared to the average student in English Language Arts and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, in the FY20 Governor's Amended budget full deletions were made to pre-kindergarten and early education grants and programs, including state grants for Head Start, Best Beginnings, and Early Childhood; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Developmental Profile only about one in four children who attend Supporting Transitions and Educational Promise (STEP) Alaska parent schools are ready for kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, with support from STEP, the Early Childhood Work Group learned of the progress of a Promise Neighborhood grantee in rural Mississippi that increased kindergarten readiness from 25% to 60% in five years; and

WHEREAS, with the diminishing number of fluent speakers of the 21 official Alaska Native languages, funding from the state and collaboration with native entities in state school districts to expand language learning opportunities is a necessity; and

WHEREAS, work that has been done for language revitalization includes the Tlingit Culture Language and Literacy program in the Juneau School District and the Yup'ik language immersion program in the Anchorage School District, but both are offered only at an elementary level; and

WHEREAS, to further the path towards a comprehensive revitalization effort for our citizens there must be support and funding to expand to all grade levels programs that are currently only at an early education level so that a student may spend their pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic career learning their native language; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 10-12, 2019, hereby petitions the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Alaska to support the critical development of younger students by fully funding the Department of Education Early Childhood Development programs and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida further requests the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Alaska support the academic achievements of Native Alaskan student by providing language immersion options for all grades in state school districts.

ADOPTED this 11th day of April 2019, by the Eighty-Fourth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe