



Resolution #30

Religious Holiday Absences

Submitted by Nora King
April 16, 2024

Be it resolved by Polaris Operational Group, a special category of absences would be added for religious holidays observed outside of existing ASD holidays and NOT counted against student attendance.

1. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School District (ASD) has a category for unexcused absences and excused absences;
2. **Whereas**, 90% attendance and above is an ASD goal;
3. **Whereas**, perfect attendance is an admirable and desired goal for students;
4. **Whereas**, ASD offers days off for Christmas, a Christian holiday that falls during the school year;
5. **Whereas**, the Christmas holiday does not result in unexcused or excused absences;
6. **Whereas**, ASD takes two weeks off during the school year that is centered around a religious holidays but not all religious holidays are given time off for then to be observed;
7. **Whereas**, ASD's diverse student body celebrates and observes holidays that fall throughout the school year;
8. **Whereas**, ASD has some of the most diverse schools in America;
9. **Whereas**, ASD should be a leader for other school districts to be aware of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds;
10. **Whereas**, there are many religions practiced within ASD including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and others;
11. **Whereas**, these absences would not count against perfect attendance;
12. **Whereas**, it would be used like a school sponsored activity;and

13. **Whereas**, a student can apply for five (5) additional holiday absences;

Therefore, be it resolved by Polaris Operational Group, a special category of absences would be added for religious holidays observed outside of existing ASD holidays and NOT counted against student attendance.

Action Statement: If this resolution is approved by the Polaris General Assembly then it will be brought before AASG and if it passes there the author of this resolution will go to the school board and see if it is a possibility and then if it is work with the school board to put it in place.

Works Cited

"About." *Lubavitch Jewish Center of Alaska*, <https://www.lubavitchjewishcenter.org/about-us>.

Accessed 19 March 2024.

"Our District / Cultural Dates of Significance." *Anchorage School District*,

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/7989>. Accessed 19 March 2024.