



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Eightieth Annual Tribal Assembly

April 15-17, 2015

Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 15-05

Title: Enacting Native Language Instruction

By: Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with nearly 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska adopted Alaska Statute AS 14.30.420 which provides for Alaska Native language instruction in school districts with a majority of students who are Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, the majority Alaska Native student population criteria set forth by statute 14.30.420 for schools to have a provision for language instruction results in only 28 of the 54 school districts being eligible for the benefits provided and resulting in an exclusion of this valuable right to heritage language instruction for a large population of Alaska Native youth; and

WHEREAS, only 5 of the 28 eligible school districts observed the statute authorization for a Native language curriculum advisory board, and to enact a Native language curriculum resulting in a minimal benefit to Alaska Native language preservation and instruction availability; and

WHEREAS, the number of fluent speakers for Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian is critical with no fluent speakers under the age of 55 (Krauss 1992) and of the 20 Alaska Native languages alive today, only two languages (Yupik) are taught traditionally from parents to children (Krauss 1992) resulting in each Alaska Native language facing a danger of being lost; and

WHEREAS, Alaska schools are Alaska Native serving institutions charged with the education of Alaska Native youth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-17, 2015, hereby requests the Governor's Language Commission and the representative members amend the statute to include a threshold that supports all Alaska schools with an Alaska Native language student population of at least 100 Alaska Native students per school or a student population of at least 20% to additionally benefit from the establishment of language curriculum advisory boards and Alaska Native language instruction.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2015, by the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



for: Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw