

HAINES BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 09-03-159

**Adopted**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING AN INCREASE OF THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE FROM 16 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

WHEREAS, Alaska's drop-out rate is double the national average based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, sixteen-year-olds are not ready to make the enormous decision to give up a high school education at a critical age for their development and future success; and

WHEREAS, when the drop-out rate of Alaskan students increase, the direct and indirect costs to the State of Alaska also increase including unemployment, criminal behavior, and dependence on the State's social services; and

WHEREAS, it has been established through extensive research that the more education a person receives the more earning potential one gains; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State legislation holds districts and schools to the high standard of graduating all students; and

WHEREAS, parents and schools need all the tools they can to set a standard of expected attendance,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Haines Borough Assembly and Haines Borough School Board jointly support the increase in the compulsory attendance age for the State of Alaska from 16 to 18 years of age unless the School District's graduation requirements have been met.

ADOPTED BY DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUMS OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA, THIS 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2009.

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Janice Hill, Mayor

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Carol Kelly, Board President

ATTEST:

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Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk