



**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PROCLAMATION

To Declare November 2023 as

Alaska Native Heritage Month

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska is a culturally rich and diverse land comprised of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples with unique traditions and history; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska honors and recognizes the First People of our State and Nation – an important honor that is bestowed not only to elders and those who lived before, but to all Alaska Natives living today; and

WHEREAS, we value and respect the endurance of our great state’s different heritages through the cultivation of traditional languages, cultural beliefs, oral narratives, the arts, and subsistence lifestyles, and we appreciate the important work of elders and culture-bearers who share the knowledge of the past with Alaska’s youth and work to preserve that heritage for the future; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that these cultures continue to thrive for future generations, and that the historical values continue to grow through the practicing of time-honored ceremonies, subsistence lifestyles, and the use and preservation of traditional languages; and

WHEREAS, renewing our interest and growth in cultural programs is vital to preserving Alaskan Native languages, dances, and arts, and to fostering understanding of the sophistication and complexity of Alaskan Native cultures; and

WHEREAS, from their service in the United States Armed Forces, to their vital role in Alaska’s economic future, to their dedication and contributions to artistic and literary endeavors, Alaskan Natives play a key role in Alaska’s prosperity; and

WHEREAS, by emphasizing the important background and traditions of Alaskan Native people, the children of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District can connect with the past and ensure a bright future, so, in November and throughout the year, we celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native Alaskans and ensure their histories and contributions continue to be sustained with each passing generation.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Education of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District hereby proclaims November 2023 as Alaskan Native Heritage Month in our District, and encourages all Alaskans to celebrate our Native cultures this month and throughout the year with appropriate respect, educational programs, and activities.

Dated this 18th day of October 2023

School Board President, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board of Education