

Alaska Performance Scholarship

An invitation to excellence, extended to students, parents and educators alike.



Fact Sheet – Jan 2011

WHO can get the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)?

Alaska residents who graduate from an Alaska high school (public, private, or home school), in 2011, and:

- complete a rigorous high school curriculum, as defined by regulations
- achieve a high school GPA of at least 2.5, or equivalent
- earn a minimum score on college or career readiness test (21 on the ACT, 1450 on the SAT, or 5 on WorkKeys)
- enroll at least half time, and remain in good standing, in an approved program at a qualifying Alaska institution
- have qualifying education costs remaining after using all other non-loan aid (e.g. federal grants or other scholarships)

WHERE can the APS be used?

At any regionally accredited college or university in Alaska, or for approved career and technical education programs.

HOW MUCH is the APS?

There are three maximum annual award levels: up to \$4,755, \$3,566, and \$2,378. Amounts are established based on a combination of minimum GPA and test scores. Students may remain eligible for up to eight semesters of enrollment, but must use the award within six years of their high school graduation year.

Funds can be used for qualifying costs of attendance certified by the postsecondary institution, which typically include tuition, fees, books, tools and supplies, room and board and transportation. Students must apply for and use any other non-loan financial aid to pay their education costs first. They will not receive more APS funds than the costs of attendance that remain after other aid is considered.

WHAT is required to get the APS?

Step 1) TAKE A RIGOROUS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM (see chart on reverse)

Step 2) MEET THE GPA AND TEST SCORE REQUIREMENTS WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL (see chart on reverse)

Step 3) APPLY

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1, 2011, and before June 30, 2011. Students applying to a school that is not FAFSA-eligible may use an alternate application available from ACPE.

After an initial award, students can continue to be eligible for up to a total of eight semesters by:

- filing a new FAFSA or approved alternate application by the deadline each year
- making satisfactory academic progress as set out in regulations (including number of credits earned and college GPA, if applicable)
- staying enrolled at least half time in a qualifying program of study

WHEN will the APS be available?

Once the legislature appropriates funds, the high school graduating class of 2011 will be the first students eligible for the APS. Governor Parnell's proposed FY 2012 budget includes a request for \$8.2 million for the 2011 awards.



For more information, go to APS.alaska.gov



Alaska Performance Scholarship Student Eligibility Criteria

The Alaska Performance Scholarship is available to Alaska residents who graduate from an Alaska high school (public, private, or home school), in or after 2011, who:

1. Complete a rigorous high school curriculum; and
2. Achieve required grade point averages (GPA); and
3. Achieve minimum college or career readiness test scores; and
4. Attend an eligible program at an institution located in Alaska.

Important: Minimum curriculum requirements are set by year of graduation.

2011 Graduation

All Scholarship Levels
5 units combined in math and science (at least 2 units in each category).

2012 Graduation

Math and Science Option

All Scholarship Levels Scholarship Level 2 and 3
4 units math 7 units combined in math and
4 units science science (at least 3 units in
and each category).
4 units language arts 4 units language arts
4 units social studies¹ 4 units social studies¹

Social Studies and Language Option

All Scholarship Levels Scholarship Level 2 & 3
4 units language arts 4 units language arts
4 units social studies 4 units social studies
2 units of the same 1 unit world language²
world language² 3 units math
3 units math 3 units science

Graduation 2013 and After

Math and Science Option

All Scholarship Levels
4 units math
4 units science
4 units language arts
4 units social studies¹

Social Studies and Language Option

All Scholarship Levels
4 units language arts
4 units social studies
2 units of the same world language²
3 units math
3 units science

Minimum GPA and Test Scores by Scholarship Level

Level 1: Up to \$4,755 per year
GPA of at least 3.5
and
A) An ACT score of 25 or higher; or
B) an SAT score of 1680 or higher; or
C) For all scholarship levels: A WorkKeys score of 5 in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information will qualify an otherwise eligible student to receive a scholarship award for attendance in a Career Technical Education certificate program, but not for attendance in a degree program.

Level 2: Up to \$3,566 per year

GPA of at least 3.0
and
A) An ACT Score of 23 or higher; or
B) an SAT score of 1560 or higher; or

Level 3: Up to \$2,378 per year

GPA of at least 2.5
and
A) An ACT Score of 21 or higher; or
B) an SAT score of 1450 or higher; or

¹ Students electing the Math and Science Option may substitute a unit of foreign language, Alaska Native language, or American Sign Language, fine arts, or cultural heritage for one of the 4 units of social studies.
² For the purposes of APS eligibility American Sign, Alaska Native and foreign languages are all considered world languages.



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Roles

Governor Sean Parnell - proposed the Governor's Scholarship Program, which initiated discussion and debate resulting in the approved Alaska scholarship program.

Alaska Legislature – in 2010, passed Senate Bill 221 (SB 221) which created the new Alaska scholarship program, now known as the Alaska Performance Scholarship, in AS 14.43 Article 11A. SB 221 was sponsored by Senators Stevens, McGuire, Davis, Kookesh, Meyer, Paskvan, Menard, Stedman, Thomas and Egan. It is anticipated that funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship will be a significant 2011 legislative priority.

Department of Education and Early Development (EED) – establishes the:

- test scores that qualify students for specific award levels
- specific courses that meet the curriculum requirements set in statute
- phased-in curriculum requirements for the classes of 2011 and 2012
- process for home school students to determine scholarship eligibility

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) – is responsible for program operations and administers the scholarship funds. Duties include:

- developing procedures for applying for the scholarships
- establishing ongoing programmatic standards
- ensuring students apply for other non-loan financial aid

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) - establishes related criteria and determines which career and technical school programs in the state are eligible to participate in the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Postsecondary Institutions - monitor and record continued eligibility of enrolled students, and collaborate with EED, DOLWD, and ACPE to record and share data, and prepare annual reports to the public, governor, and legislature.

Alaska School Districts - tasked with determining which high school graduates are eligible, and making the information part of students' permanent records.

Alaska's Parents and Students – responsible for reviewing the eligibility requirements and working with their schools and educators to ensure students have an opportunity to become eligible for the award.

Alaska Performance Scholarship Requirements Documents

Statute: [AS 14.43 Article 11A. Alaska Merit Scholarship Program](#)

EED Regulations: [4 ACC 43](#) and [4 ACC 43.030 \(amended\)](#)

DOLWD Regulations – [8 ACC 81](#)

ACPE Regulations - [20 ACC 16 Article 2](#)



Additional scholarship information available at AKadvantage.alaska.gov