

STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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February 22, 2012

The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stedman:

The following information is provided in response to requests made at the February 15, 2012 meeting of the Senate Finance Committee.

1. What are the rates of APS eligibility and usage, aggregated by school size?

The table below aggregates APS eligibility specifically by ranges of high school size.

2011 Alaska Public High School Graduates

Size of School Graduating Class	Total Graduates	Eligible Graduates	Received Scholarship	# of Schools
All Schools	8,064	2,338	835	
Greater than 100	4,729	1,680	560	20
51 to 100	1,659	363	143	22
21 to 50	690	204	93	22
11 to 20	405	48	20	29
6 to 10	278	21	10	37
5 or fewer	303	22	9	116

2. What are the national college-going rate and the Alaska college-going rate?

This information was misreported by me during last week's discussion. According to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), the national college-going rate in 2008 (most recent year available) was 63.3%, and the Alaska-specific rate was 45.7%, the lowest of any state in the nation. The college-going rate is defined as the number of first-time freshmen who graduated from high school in the past year and are enrolled in postsecondary institutions anywhere in the United States, divided by the number of public and private high school graduates.

3. Relative to math remediation/preparatory courses, what level of math is generally considered college level?

The University of Alaska reports that calculus is generally considered entry level for the college-level mathematics course sequences.

4. How many students are getting simultaneous awards from the Alaska Advantage Education Grant (AEG) and the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)?

This number remains a moving target since spring awards have not been completed and additional AEGs are awarded as funds become available as a result of changes in students' statuses. At this time, it is anticipated we will have approximately 20 students who receive both AEG and APS awards for 2011/2012 enrollment.

5. Where did students with AEGs enroll?

AEG Awards by School of Attendance, through 12/31/2011

School	# of Students	Total Dollars Awarded
Alaska Pacific University	11	\$24,000
AVTEC	9	\$19,500
Alaska Career College	12	\$31,500
Charter College	107	\$151,375
Ilisagvik College	7	\$10,500
UAA	1,271	\$1,896,375
UAF	449	\$660,375
UAS	123	\$168,000
Wayland Baptist University	20	\$20,000
Total	2,009	\$2,981,625

6. What is the Alaska college-going rate by district?

Please see Attachment 1.

7. What are the specific legal requirements relative to small cell suppression when reporting APS outcomes, and what options are available to provide legislators with specific numbers relative to APS eligibility and usage by district and high school?

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g), provides parents (or students, if over 18) the right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) from education records, with certain exceptions set out in law. PII is defined as information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student and that would allow a reasonable person (an "outside observer"), who does not have

personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify an individual student or to ascribe specific academic characteristics to an individual with reasonable certainty.

The Department of Education and Early Development works with ACPE to ensure appropriate protocols are followed and will be responding directly to the committee's inquiry. However, recent changes in federal guidance relative to FERPA provide an opportunity to re-examine compliance protocols. Such re-examination is also timely relative to policymakers' need for APS outcomes information.

To best inform this re-examination, and to ensure we maximize information availability without putting compliance at risk, ACPE will consult with a recognized FERPA expert. We expect to receive guidance relative to changes in administrative law recommended to classify receipt of an APS award as FERPA directory information, which may in future years be considered public information.

Alaska did submit a request directly to the federal FERPA compliance office several months ago for guidance relative to the publication of APS data, but have yet to receive a response.

Based on an internal review, EED and ACPE have concurred that, in a greater number of instances than originally published, release of the annual number of APS recipients by school district is reasonable and complies with all applicable FERPA requirements. A new list of graduates and APS recipients by school district is provided as the second attachment to this document.

We look forward to providing additional detail relative to FERPA requirements upon completion of legal review and receipt of additional external expert analyses.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Alaska Performance Scholarship outcomes report. I hope this information is responsive to the inquiries. I would be pleased to provide any additional information requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Barrans", written in a cursive style.

Diane Barrans
Executive Director

Attachments:

1. Alaska college-going rates by district
2. Summary of APS recipients by district

Attachment 1: Alaska College-Going Rates by District

The table below presents information available from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). AY11 Alaska high school graduates were matched to NSC data to identify those pursuing postsecondary education, both in-state and out-of-state. Students enrolled in non-collegiate postsecondary training programs such as apprenticeships or non-degree vocational training are not included in the college-going rates calculated from NSC numbers.

NSC collects its information directly from postsecondary institutions. A student's attendance is considered to be directory information under FERPA, and is disclosable by the institution unless the student requests that such information not be shared. When this occurs, the institution does not report the identity of that student to NSC. This maintains compliance with FERPA, but may understate the actual number of graduates attending postsecondary institutions.

School District	Attending Postsecondary			Not Found in NSC	Grand Total
	Total	In-State	Out-of-State		
Alaska Gateway	9	8	1	13	22
Aleutians East	5	4	1	8	13
Anchorage	1,685	1,029	656	1,377	3,062
Annette Island	3	2	1	10	13
Bering Strait	15	14	1	91	106
Bristol Bay	6	5	1	3	9
Chatham	4	3	1	9	13
Chugach	2	1	1	5	7
Copper River	17	12	5	7	24
Cordova City	17	6	11	15	32
Craig City	14	4	10	8	22
Delta-Greely	22	17	5	33	55
Denali	10	10		9	19
Dillingham	9	7	2	11	20
Fairbanks	425	302	123	411	836
Galena	83	62	21	170	253
Haines	16	12	4	8	24
Hoonah	2	2	-	2	4
Hydaburg	1	1	-	3	4
Iditarod	6	5	1	21	27
Juneau	227	114	113	176	403

Kake	3	3		3	6
Kashunamiut	2	1	1	10	12
Kenai Peninsula	267	159	108	326	593
Ketchikan	62	35	27	60	122
Klawock	6	3	3	5	11
Kodiak Island	86	58	28	95	181
Kuspuk	4	4		16	20
Lake and Peninsula	8	6	2	18	26
Lower Kuskokwim	39	32	7	111	150
Lower Yukon	9	8	1	58	67
Mat-Su	445	278	167	640	1,085
Mt Edgecumbe	51	40	11	23	74
Nenana	34	32	2	94	128
Nome	17	11	6	12	29
North Slope	32	23	9	54	86
Northwest Arctic	18	15	3	60	78
Petersburg	30	17	13	23	53
Pribilof	2	1	1	2	4
Saint Mary's	3	2	1	10	13
Sitka	49	21	28	49	98
Skagway	6	2	4	6	12
Southeast Island	2	2		8	10
Southwest Region	8	7	1	24	32
Unalaska	11	8	3	11	22
Valdez	28	22	6	17	45
Wrangell	11	5	6	15	26
Yakutat	5	3	2	4	9
Yukon Flats	1	1		7	8
Yukon-Koyukuk	21	18	3	67	88
Yupitit	-			8	8
Grand Total	3,838	2,437	1,401	4,226	8,064

Attachment 2: APS Recipients by District

2010-2011 APS Eligibility and Acceptance by School District

District Name	Class of 2011 High School Graduates	APS-Eligible Graduates	Percent Eligible	APS Recipients
Alaska Gateway	22	6	27%	4
Anchorage	3,062	1,081	35%	359
Copper River	24	9	38%	7
Cordova City	32	10	31%	3
Delta-Greely	55	14	25%	10
Denali	19	7	37%	3
Fairbanks	836	288	34%	142
Galena	253	54	21%	25
Haines	24	10	42%	4
Juneau	403	115	29%	25
Kenai Peninsula	593	179	30%	58
Ketchikan	122	48	39%	19
Kodiak Island	181	67	37%	17
Lower Kuskokwim	150	12	8%	3
Mat-Su	1,085	244	22%	91
Mt Edgecumbe	74	13	18%	3
Nenana	128	5	4%	4
Nome	29	10	34%	6
North Slope	86	17	20%	8
Petersburg	53	25	47%	9
Sitka	98	37	38%	5
Skagway	12	5	42%	1
Unalaska	22	10	45%	5
Valdez	45	13	29%	8
Wrangell	26	7	27%	3
Yukon-Koyukuk	88	7	8%	2
<i>Other Districts w/ Graduates (25 total)</i>	542	29	5%	11
Statewide Public	8,064	2,322	29%	835

NOTES: *Other Districts w/ Graduates* includes twenty five school districts with fewer than five APS-eligible students in AY11. These districts were: Aleutians East, Annette Island, Bering Strait, Bristol Bay, Chatham, Chugach, Craig City, Dillingham, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Iditarod, Kake, Kashunamiut, Klawock, Kuspuk, Lake and Peninsula, Lower Yukon, Northwest Arctic, Pribilof, Saint Mary's, Southeast Island, Southwest Region, Yakutat, Yukon Flats, and Yupiit. Three districts (Aleutian Region, Pelican and Tanana) had no high school seniors and/or graduates in AY11.