

135 W. Cityview Ave.
Homer, AK 99603
March 19, 2014
Subject: HB 365

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Paul Seaton,

I am writing in support of HB 365. As an itinerant school counselor serving four schools on the Kenai Peninsula, I encourage students to strive for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. I believe the scholarship is an excellent opportunity for students to get one step-closer to their post-secondary goals. However, what I have begun to take note is that many of the students are completing the additional curriculum, but unable to meet the ACT and SAT score requirements. Yet, they are achieving the prerequisite WorkKeys score.

Under the current legislation, a WorkKeys score can only be used for certificate programs. I believe that allowing the WorkKeys score to be taken into consideration for degree programs as proposed in HB 365 will not only provide students with greater scholarship opportunities, but will also positively impact Alaska's workforce. Currently students on a vocational career path are discouraged from pursuing higher-level programs if they wish to take advantage of the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Thank you for bringing forward HB 365. It is my sincere hope that those in the position to make the change will join you in holding the doors to higher education open for the students of Alaska.

Respectfully,
Natali Jones

cc: Representative Lynn Gattis

March 18, 2014

ATTN: HEATHER BEGGS

As a school counselor, I fully support HB 365. This bill would streamline the Alaska Performance Scholarship's testing requirements, and I think it would help more of our students find success. The WorkKeys requirement is equally rigorous and perhaps more relevant than solely the ACT or SAT for many of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Andrews", written over the printed name.

Wes Andrews

School Counselor

Skyview High School

260-2310

wandrews@kpbsd.org

<http://skyviewhighschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/>

March 19, 2014

P.O. Box 343
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556

Dear Representative Seaton:

My name is Hannah Soplanda. I am currently a junior attending Ninilchik High School. I am writing this letter to address House Bill 365, which outlines a new standard for the Alaska Performance Scholarship. It is my understanding from the reading the bill that if the bill passes, the WorkKeys test scores may substitute for ACT and SAT scores for the Collegiate Award.

Although I haven't taken the ACT as of yet, I believe that having the Work Keys test as a virtual 'back-up' will have a relieving affect for many students like me. A lot of stress is put onto students as test dates for the ACT and SAT arrive. Taking the WorkKeys could even make taking the ACT and SAT tests easier. The WorkKeys test is also mandatory in the state of Alaska. Because the test is required, it is also free. Students may take the test twice, both in their junior year and their senior year. This maximizes the potential score students can acquire.

Thank you for your time and for reading this. I would really like to see this bill take affect soon. I believe this bill will make a difference in the lives of Alaskan students.

Sincerely,

Hannah Soplanda

March 19th, 2014

P.O. Box 39786

Ninilchik Ak, 99639

Dear Representative Seaton:

I am Tristan Combs, a current junior at Ninilchik High school. I am writing this letter to give my opinion on house bill 365.

This bill is an attempt to allow the WorkKeys test, which is already mandated throughout our state, to count as a college entrance exam. Implementing this ideal would be a sound decision for our state due to the low cost to administer this test, the fact that it is already mandated, and that some students struggle with ACT and SAT score but do well on the WorkKeys. So little cost to the state does this test have that it is economically sound, allowing more money to be spent elsewhere in our state. With having the WorkKeys count as a college entrance exam and qualifying exam for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, more students will want to attend college, increasing the amount of educated students from our generation, ensuring our future as Americans.

Thank you for your time Representative Seaton.

Sincerely, Tristan Combs

2/20/14

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ivana Ash and I am a high school senior from Nanwalek. The past 4 years I have been trying my very best to work towards the Level 1 Alaska Performance Scholarship. I have been fortunate enough to reach Level 2, although, I have a composite ACT score of 17. My other alternative was to take the SAT, in which I received a composite score of 1120. Without having any training or preparation, I went in and took these tests. I feel, as it is unfair to scale these scholarships, especially when considering students from rural communities. In the rural areas of Alaska, students live a very cultural lifestyle, having to complete tasks as harvesting firewood and put enough fish away for the winter. Schools districts offer online electives such as Keyboarding, Computer Applications, and Child Development. Students from rural areas may understand the importance of education but may not be apt in successfully receive a good amount of the scholarship. Regarding rural communities, only 2 or 3 teachers are assigned to each high school, in which, I believe 2 or 3 teachers are not enough for a medium sized school such my own. Having taken these tests twice and not successfully earned a high score, I feel, as these test are not culturally responsive. In return only providing us juniors and seniors the opportunity of taking the SATs or ACTs, although, have are only given time to prepare for the tests. This doesn't really clue us in on what is to be expected on the test. With having only limited budget and resources, I am in favor of amending this subsection.

Thank you for your time,

Ivana Ash

March 19, 2014

PO Box 96
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Dear Representative Seaton:

My name is Melissa Clark, and I am currently a junior attending Ninilchik High School. I am writing to you because it came to my attention that you are interested in passing a bill concerning the act of including the WorkKeys as one of the Alaska Performance Scholarship. I am in full support of this bill, and would be very appreciative if this bill would pass.

There are several different reasons why this bill should be passed. Primarily, this examination is currently required in all school districts, so why not include it in the Alaska Performance Scholarship? There are some students who have a difficulty in taking exams like the SAT, and ACT. The WorkKeys is another opportunity for Alaska students to perform better, thus having a higher chance of attending college in Alaska. Finally, having a higher percentage of in-state college students increases the number of graduates that will benefit the state of Alaska in more ways than one. For example, it would increase the workforce, which would raise Alaska's economy.

The WorkKeys is a great way to help Alaska's students, and give them more opportunities. As a student at Ninilchik, I strongly believe that including this examination will benefit all students, whether or not they prefer to use their score as the required field on the APS. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Clark

March 18, 2014

PO Box 39850
Ninilchik, AK. 99639

Dear Representative Seaton:

My name is Robert Delgado and I am a senior at Ninilchik High School. I am writing to you today to voice my support for recent bill that you have introduced concerning the use of the WorkKeys test scores counting towards the Alaska performance scholarship.

I believe that this bill will help to allow more graduating students in Alaska receive financial aid that is needed. It will also allow students who work hard, but do not test well to more easily attain this scholarship. I also believe that it may reduce strain on students, as they do not have to pay for the WorkKeys test. It is already required for every student in the 11th grade and is administered electronically. By making the scholarship more accessibly attainable, we may be able to further increase the number of students who continue to pursue an education within Alaska.

Thank you very much for your time. I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors, and I sincerely hope that this bill passes.

Sincerely,

Robert Delgado

March 19, 2014

P.O. BOX 98
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Dear Representative Seaton,

My name is Sebastian Appelhanz. I am currently a junior attending Ninilchik High School, part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. I am writing to you today to voice my opinion about the bill you are pushing forward with right now about being able to use your Work Keys for applying for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

I feel like this would be a very beneficiary bill. Not only would it add another chance one being able to actually get a grade good enough for the Alaska Performance Scholarship but it is sensible too. We already are required to take the Work Keys and if the bill is passed students have a comprehensible reason why we are taking the Work Keys. People might be able to find faults but personally I feel that the good outweighs any possible bad of this bill. It gives students a reason to take the Work Keys and actually try on the Work Keys but also gives students another chance to further their education which even our President is trying to work for.

Thank you, Mr. Seaton for your time and your diligent work for the bettering of students' education. This is a great bill to work for and I hope that it is passed.

Sincerely, Sebastian Appelhanz