

ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

OUTCOMES REPORT
2011 – FALL 2017

Respectfully provided to the Alaska Legislature, Governor Bill Walker, and the Alaska Public by:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
University of Alaska

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary 1

APS Eligibility Definitions & Requirements 2

EXHIBIT 1 APS Eligibility Requirements 2

APS Awards 3

EXHIBIT 2 APS Total Dollars Awarded and Recipients Each Award Year 2012 – 2018 3

Students Uncertain About the Future of the APS 4

2017 APS Survey Highlight: Would you recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students? 4

APS-Eligible Graduates & Recipients 5

EXHIBIT 3 Percent of Public High School Graduates Eligible for APS, by Graduating Class 5

EXHIBIT 4 Percent of APS-Eligible Graduates Using APS the Fall Following Graduation, by Graduating Class 5

APS-Eligible Students Report Positive High School Behaviors 6

EXHIBIT 5 Did the Availability of APS Make You More Likely to do Any of the Following in High School? 6

APS-Eligible Students in the Class of 2017 7

EXHIBIT 6 Class of 2017 APS-Eligible Students in Fall 2017, by Region 7

EXHIBIT 7 Class of 2017 Proportion of APS Recipients in Fall 2017, by Region 7

APS Supports Economic Mobility 8

Eligible Students Highly Recommend the APS 9

2017 APS Survey Highlight: First-Generation Students Who Would Recommend the APS 9

APS Encourages Students to Attend and Complete their Postsecondary Education 10

2017 APS Survey Highlight: APS Supports Access to Higher Education 10

EXHIBIT 8 APS-Eligible Students Attend Postsecondary Education at a Much Higher Rate than Their Ineligible Peers 10

EXHIBIT 9 How Much of an Influence was the APS on Your Decision to Attend an In-State School? 11

EXHIBIT 10 APS Recipients Graduate On-Time at Higher Rates than Ineligible Students 12

EXHIBIT 11 APS Recipients Graduate On-Time at a Higher Rate than Eligible Peers Who Do Not Receive the Scholarship but Attend in Alaska, and Ineligible Students at Alaska Postsecondary Institutions 13

EXHIBIT 12 Percent of 2011 Alaska High School Graduates Who Have Applied for the 2017 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) 13

Most APS Recipients Attend the University of Alaska 14

APS Recipients Succeed at the University of Alaska 14

EXHIBIT 13 APS Recipients Attending Postsecondary in Alaska, by Fiscal Year 14

EXHIBIT 14 Percent of Enrolled First-Time Freshmen at UA from the Classes of 2011-2017 Needing Developmental Coursework 14

EXHIBIT 15 Percent of the Class of 2017 Enrolled at UA Needing Developmental Math Coursework 15

EXHIBIT 16 Average Credit Hours Attempted and Completed per Year at UA for High School Classes of 2011-2016 15

EXHIBIT 17 Percent of the Class of 2011-2015 First Year Students at the University of Alaska who Persisted into their Second Year 16

EXHIBIT 18 Class of 2017 First-Time UA Freshmen Fall 2017 by Degree Level Sought 16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APS and Non-APS Alaska High School Graduates at the University of Alaska 17

EXHIBIT 19

APS Recipients Succeed in the Alaska Workforce 18

EXHIBIT 20 APS-Eligible Students are Employed at a Similar Rate Compared with Ineligible Students During Their Senior Year, but are Employed at a Much Higher Rate the Year After the Last Fiscal Year Tracked by ACPE 19

EXHIBIT 21 Receiving the Alaska Performance Scholarship is Associated with Higher Annual Wages on Average than Those Who Were Ineligible 20

EXHIBIT 22 Top APS Recipients' Average Wages are Substantially Higher in the Years After Receiving the Scholarship Compared to Their Peers 20

Appendix A 21

Data Notes 21

APS Definitions 21

APS Recipients and Ineligible High School Graduates Employed in Alaska 23

Appendix B 24

Public High School Graduates 2016-2017 Academic Year by School District and APS Eligibility and Use 24

Appendix C 26

Class of 2017 Legislative Districts and the Alaska Performance Scholarship 26

State Senate Districts – Fall 2017
Alaska Performance Scholarships Awarded 26

State House Districts – Fall 2017
Alaska Performance Scholarships Awarded 27

APPENDIX D: Survey Instrument 28

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Alaska Performance Scholarship is beginning its eighth year, rewarding students who strive to excel in high school and continue their education in degree and certificate programs.

Since the program began in 2011:

17,148 high school students have completed the eligibility requirements for APS

7,630 students have used the scholarship to pursue a post-secondary degree or certificate in Alaska[1]

APS students continue to enroll, persist, and complete postsecondary education at higher rates than their peers:

86% of APS-eligible students have enrolled in a postsecondary program, compared with 44% of ineligible Alaska high school graduates

97% of APS recipients did not need to take developmental coursework at University of Alaska this fall, compared with 74% of non-recipients

46% of APS recipients have graduated on time with a degree or certificate, compared with 20% of ineligible Alaska high school graduates

And, according to a new analysis this year by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

APS recipients of $10,000 or more earn over **$16,000 more in annual wages**, on average, than ineligible students working in Alaska.

1 This total number of APS recipients for the history of the program is lower than what was reported in the 2017 APS Outcomes Report. The number reported in 2017 did not represent unique APS recipients. Unique recipients at the time of the 2017 report would have been 6,517.

APS Highlight (1)

APS recipients of $10,000 or more earn over $16,000 more in annual wages, on average, than ineligible students working in Alaska.

APS ELIGIBILITY DEFINITIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Ineligible The Alaska high school graduate does not have an assigned APS eligibility level.

Eligible The student is eligible for the APS based on meeting the requirements in high school, and may be eligible for Career and Technical Education (CTE) level only or CTE level and collegiate level. This category includes all eligible students, regardless of whether they go on to receive the APS award.

Recipient The student has received the award in the amount associated with their assigned eligibility level for at least one term. This assigned eligibility level may be either a CTE award or collegiate award.

Non-Recipient Unless otherwise noted, the student has not received an APS award for the reported term. The student may be APS eligible but not meet requirements after high school, be ineligible for the scholarship, or may have received the scholarship in the past but not be eligible to receive in the reporting term.

EXHIBIT 1

APS Eligibility Requirements

[Visit APS.Alaska.gov for more information or to download eligibility checklists.]

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	UP TO **$4,755** *per year*	UP TO **$3,566** *per year*	UP TO **$2,378** *per year*
Required GPA	**3.5 or greater**	**3.0 or greater**	**2.5 or greater**
Required Testing *"Certificate" means a career & technical education certificate and does not include associate's degrees.*	**ACT/SAT: Use APS for degree or certificate**		
	ACT 25 SAT 1210* *for SAT taken March 2016 or later	**ACT 23 SAT 1130*** *for SAT taken March 2016 or later	**ACT 21 SAT 1060*** *for SAT taken March 2016 or later
	WorkKeys: Use APS for certificate only *A combination score of 13 or higher with no score below 4, is required in Applied Math, Locating Information, and Reading for Information*		
	WorkKeys 13	**WorkKeys 13**	**WorkKeys 13**

Required High School Curriculum

Students can choose either curriculum option.

Math & Science

Science	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Language Arts	4 credits

OR

Social Studies & Language Arts

Science	3 credits
Math	3 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Language Arts	4 credits
World Language#	2 credits

* These requirements have been updated as of fall 2016. Students who took the SAT prior to March 2016 can qualify for APS on the previous 2400 scale (Level 1: 1680, Level 2: 1560, Level 3: 1450).
# World language courses include Alaska Native Language and American Sign Language.

APS AWARDS

17,148 Alaska high school graduates have been eligible for the APS program since 2011. This represents approximately 30% of high school graduates.

7,630 students have received the award, which is 44% of eligible students.[2] Out of APS recipients, 36% have been awarded at Level 1, 33% at Level 2, and 30% at Level 3.

170 students have received the award from their CTE eligibility alone. CTE eligible students may receive an APS award for CTE certificate programs only, not for associate or bachelor's degree programs. CTE students qualify by meeting high school GPA requirements, completing the rigorous coursework, and scoring well on the WorkKeys exam.

2 This total number of APS recipients for the history of the program is lower than what was reported in the 2017 APS Outcomes Report. The number reported in 2017 did not represent unique APS recipients. Unique recipients at the time of the 2017 report would have been 6,517.

EXHIBIT 2

APS Total Dollars Awarded and Recipients Each Fiscal Year 2012 – 2018

Year	Total Dollars Awarded	Recipients Each Award Year
2012	$2,982,449	929
2013	$5,653,223	1,717
2014	$7,823,335	2,330
2015	$10,046,899	2,976
2016	$11,055,641	3,358
2017	$11,285,711	3,423
2018	$10,798,020*	2,918
Total	$59,645,278*	

*Funding totals for FY18 are estimated based on twice the fall award amount as of 11/14/2017

APS Highlight (2)

Approximately 30% of high school graduates are APS-eligible

Students Uncertain About the Future of the APS

The high school graduating Class of 2017 has proportionally fewer APS-eligible students than in previous years (Exhibit 3). Feedback from the 2017 survey of APS-eligible students from 2011-2017 suggests this decline may be attributable to uncertainty regarding program funding or potential program elimination.[3] When asked whether they would recommend the APS to future high school students, open-ended responses included the following:

2017 APS Survey Highlight:

Would you recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students?

> *"It won't be offered much longer, so it is better to get it if you can."*
>
> *"It's no longer offered, but it does help [students]."*
>
> *"I heard it is no longer offered."*
>
> *"I would, but I heard that this will be the last year it is going to be offered. Why? This is such a fantastic scholarship for those who can't afford college on their own! I am one of those people. This scholarship made me feel like I could go to college without coming out with monstrous debt. It also convinced me to stay in Alaska for school!"*

3 Note that as of the date of this report's publication, legislation that proposes to eliminate portions of the APS is pending (SB 103); however, no program eliminations or reductions have been passed.

APS Highlight (3)

Uncertainty regarding program funding or elimination may be contributing to a decline in eligibility

APS-ELIGIBLE GRADUATES & RECIPIENTS

In addition to uncertainty about the future of the program among Alaska's high school students, the Class of 2017 may have lower rates of APS eligibility because placement exams such as the ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys tests are less accessible to students than in previous years and are no longer required to receive a high school diploma.

High schoolers from the Class of 2015 and 2016 were required to take the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys tests before graduating.[4] Since it was a graduation requirement, these tests were provided at no cost to the student. The Class of 2017 was the first since the passage and implementation of House Bill 44, which reversed the testing requirements and ceased funding to cover the associated expenses.

Despite no longer being a graduation requirement, these tests are still required for APS eligibility. These changes may have contributed to the reduction in APS eligibility rate for the most recent class of high school graduates.

EXHIBIT 3

Percent of Public High School Graduates Eligible for APS, by Graduating Class

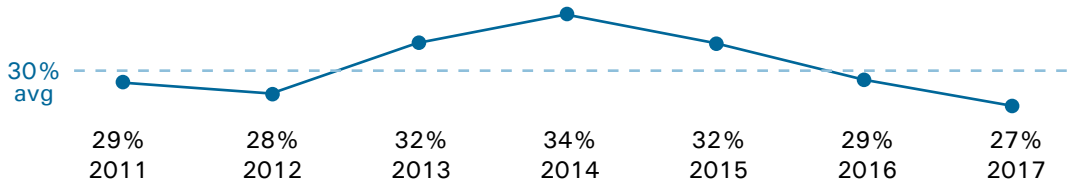
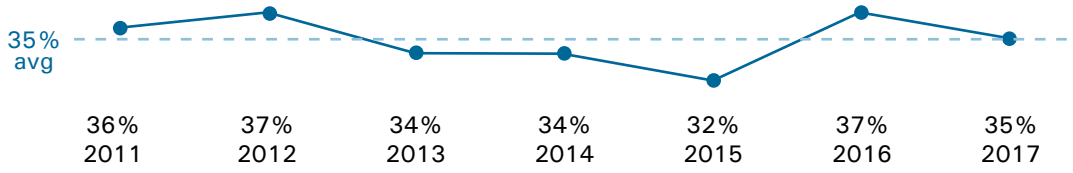


EXHIBIT 4

Percent of APS-Eligible Graduates Using APS the Fall Following Graduation, by Graduating Class



4 Hanlon, T. (2016, June 30). Alaska high school students no longer need national tests to graduate. Anchorage Daily News. Retrieved from https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/education/2016/06/30/students-no-longer-need-national-tests-to-graduate/.

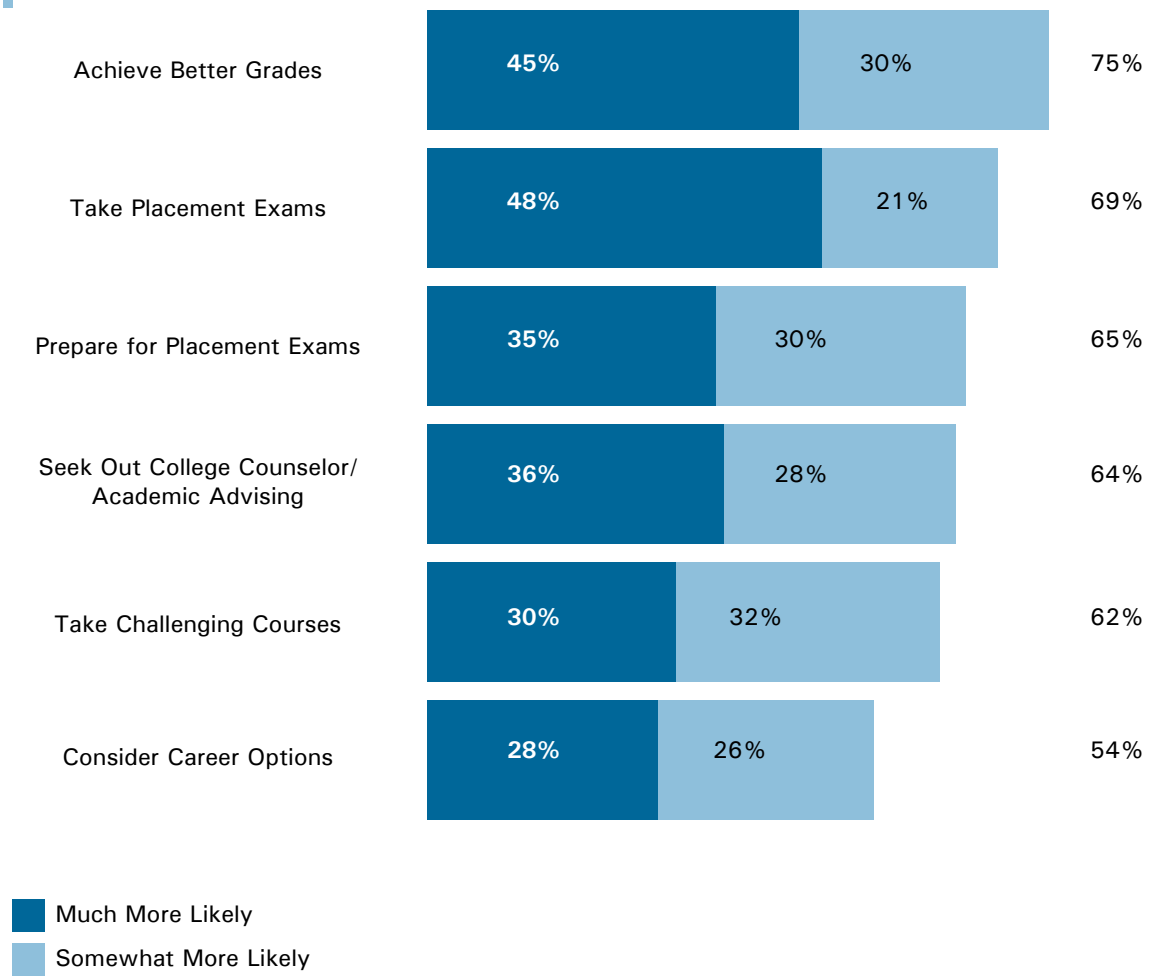
APS-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS REPORT POSITIVE HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIORS

Surveys of APS-eligible students after high school graduation have provided opportunities to understand how students perceive the program impacted their high school behaviors. In a fall 2017 survey of APS-eligible graduates from the Classes of 2011-2017, 75% of eligible students reported that the availability of APS made them more likely to achieve better grades, and 69% reported the APS made them more likely to take placement exams (n = 2,616, Exhibit 5). These results mirror findings from a previous survey in 2015 that asked the same question of 2014 high school graduates who were APS eligible. These questions were asked of all eligible students, whether or not they used the award.

APS recipients attending postsecondary institutions in Alaska were even more likely to report positive high school behaviors—85% said they were more likely to achieve better grades, and 79% said they were more likely to take placement exams like the ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys.

EXHIBIT 5

Did the Availability of APS Make You More Likely to do Any of the Following in High School?



APS-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2017

Several districts had APS eligibility rates of 40% or higher in the Class of 2017. The following districts had some of the highest proportions of students graduating with high GPAs, and completing testing and curriculum requirements for APS:

Chugach	46%
Copper River	41%
Haines Borough	41%
Mount Edgecumbe	49%
Petersburg Borough	40%
Saint Mary's	50%
Unalaska City	47%
Valdez City	48%

High schools in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska had the highest rates of APS eligibility, and students graduating from high schools in the Interior and Southcentral regions had the highest overall proportions of students receiving the scholarship at a postsecondary institution in Alaska (Exhibit 6). Finally, the Far North and the Interior had the highest rates of applying students' eligibility towards receiving the scholarship (Exhibit 7).

For more information on high school graduates by school district and APS eligibility and use information for the Class of 2017, see Appendix B. Information by legislative district on APS awards received this fall is also included in the Appendix.

EXHIBIT 6

Class of 2017 APS-Eligible Students in Fall 2017, by Region

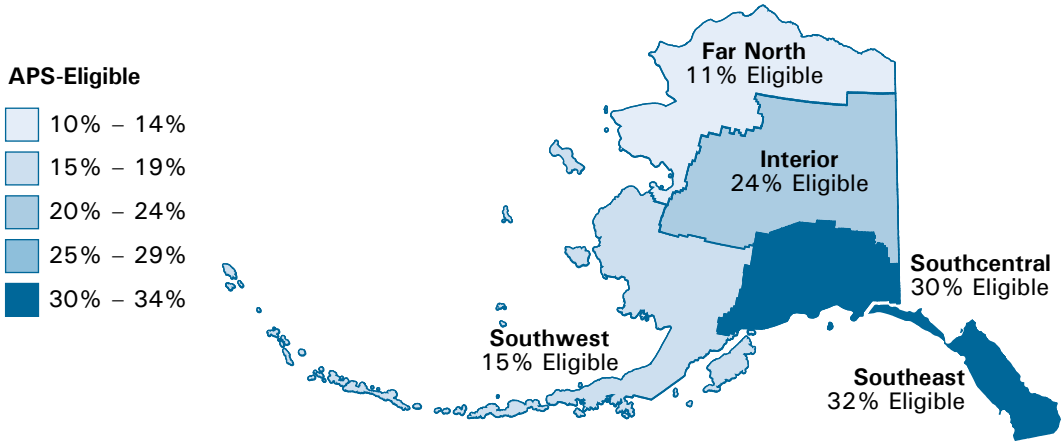
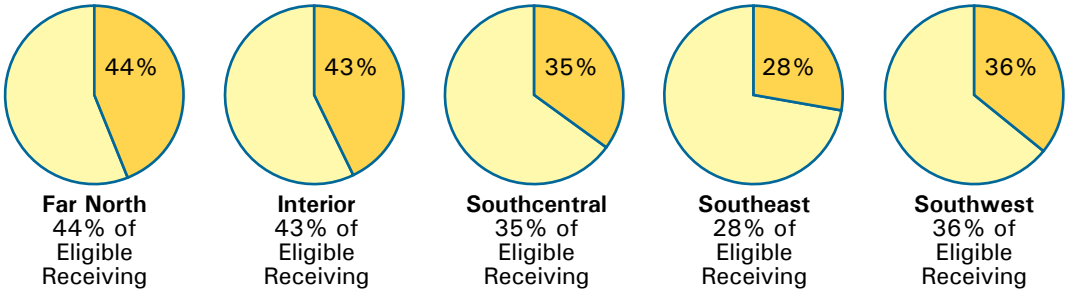


EXHIBIT 7

Class of 2017 Proportion of APS Recipients in Fall 2017, by Region



APS SUPPORTS ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Out of the Class of 2017, many high-achieving first-generation and low-income students received APS awards:

- 20% overall are from low-income families (eligible for the Pell Grant)
    - 16% of Level 1 recipients
    - 19% of Level 2 recipients
    - 27% of Level 3 recipients
- 20% are first-generation students (neither parent has graduated from college)
    - 16% of Level 1 recipients
    - 19% of Level 2 recipients
    - 26% of Level 3 recipients

Level 3 scholarship recipients have the highest proportions of low-income and first-generation students.

Over the history of the program, 23% of APS recipients have been first-generation students, and 17% have been from low-income families.

APS Highlight (4)

Level 3 scholarship recipients have the highest proportions of low-income and first-generation students

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE APS

In a 2017 survey of APS-eligible students in the Classes of 2011-2017, 94% would recommend the APS to current high school students.

When asked why they would recommend the APS several first-generation students detailed their positive experiences with the program:

2017 APS Survey Highlight: First-Generation Students Who Would Recommend the APS

"Being a first generation college student, the scholarship made my goal to attend college more attainable... The APS was a big factor in going to college and earning my Bachelor's degree in 4 years."

"I would definitely recommend the APS to current high school students. This scholarship has played a major role in funding for my tuition, and has been helpful for me, as I am a first generation student who worked to attain this scholarship. Not only does this scholarship serve as an incentive, but it is also a very solid foundation course-wise for students who want to make sure that they will be prepared for postsecondary education."

"I am a first generation college student. Getting in to, and affording school was made a little more difficult, because I didn't have the connections and history that most of my peers seem to have. APS is a leg up to first-generation scholars, and I encourage students to take the chance."

"I was the first in my family to attend college - neither of my parents did. Thank you for having the APS, it opened some opportunities for me! I am now in graduate school!"

APS Highlight (5)

94% recommend the APS to current high school students

APS ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO ATTEND AND COMPLETE THEIR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

APS-eligible students attend postsecondary institutions at a rate (86%) nearly double than that of APS ineligible Alaska high school graduates (44%) according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse over the history of the program (Exhibit 8).

In a fall 2017 survey of APS-eligible students who responded that they have attended a degree or certificate program (n = 449), 66% reported that APS affected their decision to enroll. In response to an open-ended question asking whether students would recommend the program, some students reflected on the role of APS in their decision and ability to enroll and succeed in postsecondary education:

2017 APS Survey Highlight: APS Supports Access to Higher Education

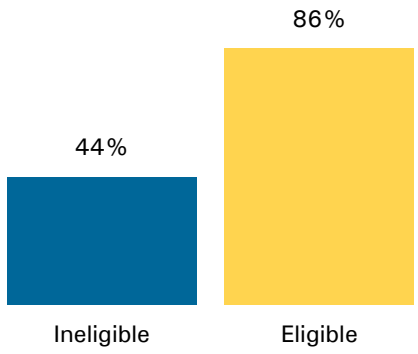
"Without the Alaska Performance Scholarship I never would have pursued college/vocational school. Receiving this scholarship changed my life."

"This scholarship alone was one of the main reasons I was able to go to college. Because I received this scholarship, I stayed in Alaska for college and graduated debt-free."

"APS was instrumental in helping me obtain my degree, and now I am a Registered Nurse because of it. I am very thankful for the aid that it offered, I may have been unable to complete college without it."

EXHIBIT 8

APS-Eligible Students Attend Postsecondary Education at a Much Higher Rate than Their Ineligible Peers



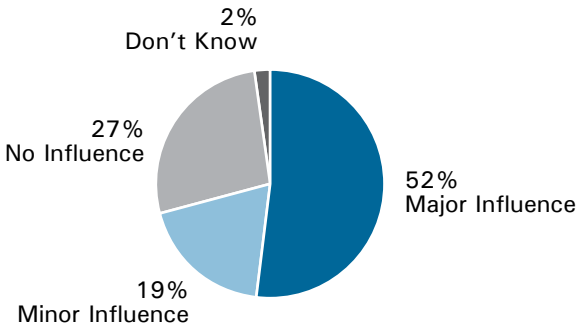
Consistent with past trends for Alaska's higher-performing students, APS-eligible students attend out-of-state postsecondary institutions at higher rates than ineligible students. APS-eligible students attended out-of-state institutions at a rate 10 percentage points higher than ineligible students (36% vs. 26%). APS-eligible students also have a higher rate of mixed attendance (16% vs. 10%).

In the fall 2017 survey of APS-eligible students:

71% (out of 449 students who said they had enrolled in postsecondary education and responded to this question) reported that the APS was a factor in their decision to choose an in-state institution. 52% reported that the APS had a major influence on their decision to attend in-state (Exhibit 9).

EXHIBIT 9

How Much of an Influence was the APS on Your Decision to Attend an In-State School? (n=449)



APS Highlight (6)

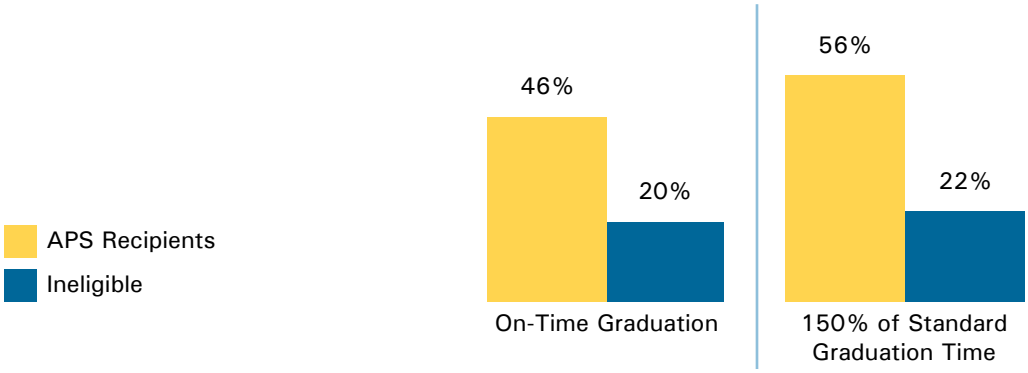
86% of APS-eligible students have enrolled in postsecondary education

These responses demonstrate that the APS may incentivize Alaska high school graduates to choose to stay in Alaska to continue their education.

APS recipients graduate on-time with a credential (two or four years after first enrollment, depending on program type) at higher rates, with APS recipients graduating on-time at a rate of 46% compared to 20% of their ineligible peers (Exhibit 10). At 150% of standard time to graduation the gap widens from 26 percentage points to 34 percentage points, with 56% of APS recipients graduating in 3 or 6 years compared to 22% of ineligible students.

EXHIBIT 10

APS Recipients Graduate On-Time at Higher Rates than Ineligible Students



Out of the 56 APS-eligible students who reported they had completed their degree or credential in this year's survey,

61% said the APS affected their ability to complete their degree or credential.

Eligible students have higher rates of graduating with a postsecondary credential, whether or not they received the APS. Those who receive the APS (with at least one term of eligible enrollment at an Alaska institution) have higher on-time completion rates than ineligible students.

Among Alaska high school graduates who have attended only in-state postsecondary institutions, APS recipients are more than three times more likely to graduate on-time (43%) than ineligible students (13%) or APS-eligible students who did not receive the award (12%, Exhibit 11).[5] Higher rates of part-time attendance in Alaska may be a contributing factor to the lower rates of on-time graduation, compared to students who attend out of state.[6]

5 Students who have been assigned a collegiate or CTE level are considered eligible for APS. Eligible students with qualifying enrollment at a postsecondary institution in Alaska will receive an award if they 1) complete the FAFSA, 2) enroll at least half-time, 3) meet continuing eligibility requirements, 4) have their enrollment confirmed by their school, 5) enroll within six years after high school graduation, and 6) enroll in a degree program that is consistent with their assigned eligibility type.

6 55% of all undergraduate students at four-year colleges in Alaska attended part-time in fall 2015. Nationally, 23% attended part-time. Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2016 Fall Enrollment Component provisional release data.

EXHIBIT 11

APS Recipients Graduate On-Time at a Higher Rate than Eligible Peers Who Do Not Receive the Scholarship but Attend in Alaska, and Ineligible Students at Alaska Postsecondary Institutions

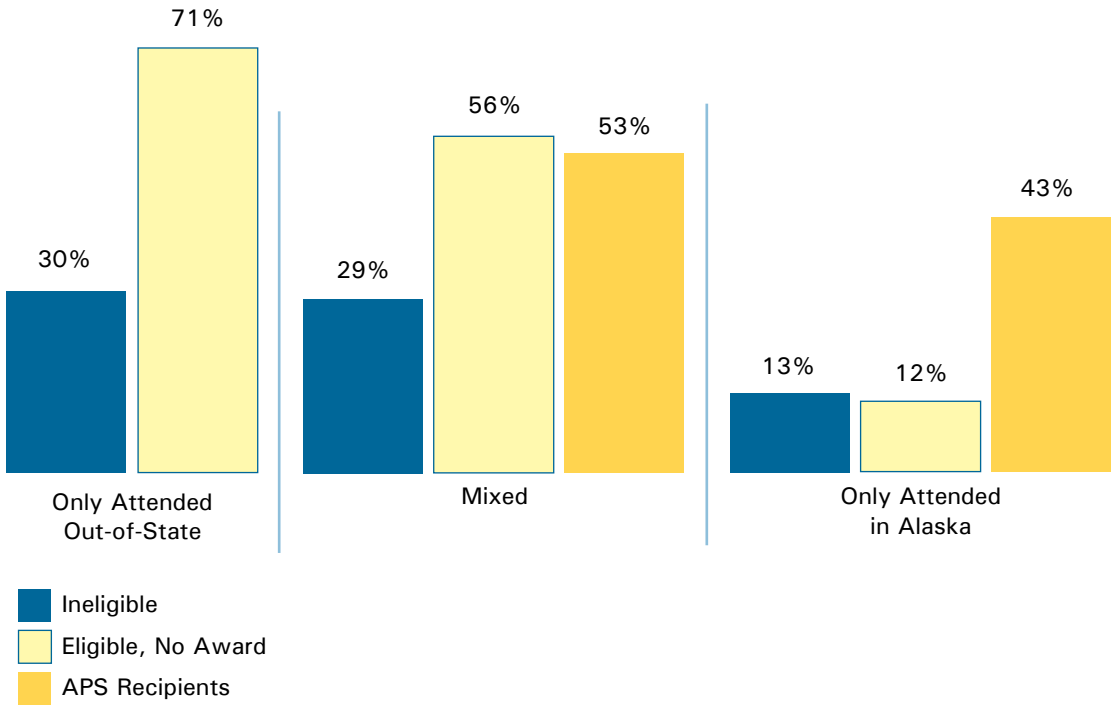


EXHIBIT 12

Percent of 2011 Alaska High School Graduates Who Have Applied for the 2017 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD)



APS recipients stay in Alaska longer compared with other high school graduates. In early 2011, nearly all 2011 high school graduates applied for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). After those students graduate from college or otherwise move on from their studies, APS recipients choose to stay in Alaska at higher rates than non-recipients. In 2017, six years after graduating high school, APS recipients applied for the PFD at rates 11 percentage points higher than other students in the Class of 2011 (80% vs. 69%, Exhibit 12).

MOST APS RECIPIENTS ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

98% of APS recipients from any graduating class are attending the University of Alaska this fiscal year (Exhibit 13). The majority of these students are attending in Anchorage.

APS RECIPIENTS SUCCEED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

APS recipients are less likely to require developmental coursework than non-APS students entering the University of Alaska, demonstrating the significant value of the rigorous coursework requirements for eligibility.[7] This year, 97% of APS recipients began their first year ready to take college-level math and English, compared to 74% of non-recipients (Exhibit 14).[8]

7 The University of Alaska updated the definition for developmental coursework in January 2017 to align with Board of Regents policy and regulation. Figures reported have changed since APS student outcomes were last reported. Some courses previously considered developmental courses are now correctly reported as college-level, and the current definition refers only to course numbers between '050' and '099.'

8 Non-recipients may include students who were eligible for the scholarship but did not receive it at the University of Alaska, and past APS recipients who no longer meet continuing eligibility requirements. However, non-recipient outcomes primarily reflect APS ineligible students.

EXHIBIT 13

APS Recipients Attending Postsecondary in Alaska, by Fiscal Year

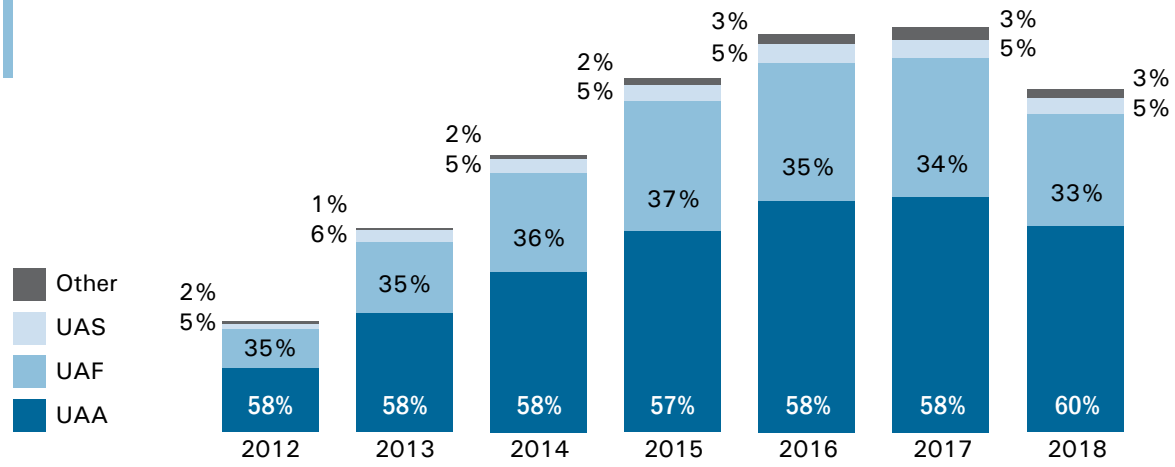
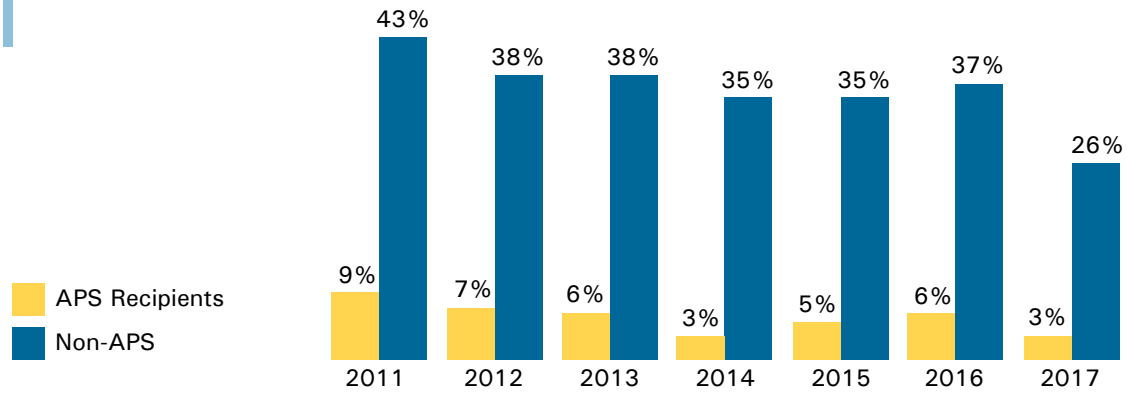


EXHIBIT 14

Percent of Enrolled First-Time Freshmen at UA from the Classes of 2011-2017 Needing Developmental Coursework



For the high school graduating Class of 2017 attending UA in fall 2017, 3% of first-time APS freshmen took a developmental math course at the University of Alaska, compared with 26% of non-recipients (Exhibit 15).

APS recipients also attempt and complete more credits per year by high school graduating class on average than non-APS students at the University of Alaska. This has been a consistent trend every year of the APS program (Exhibit 16).

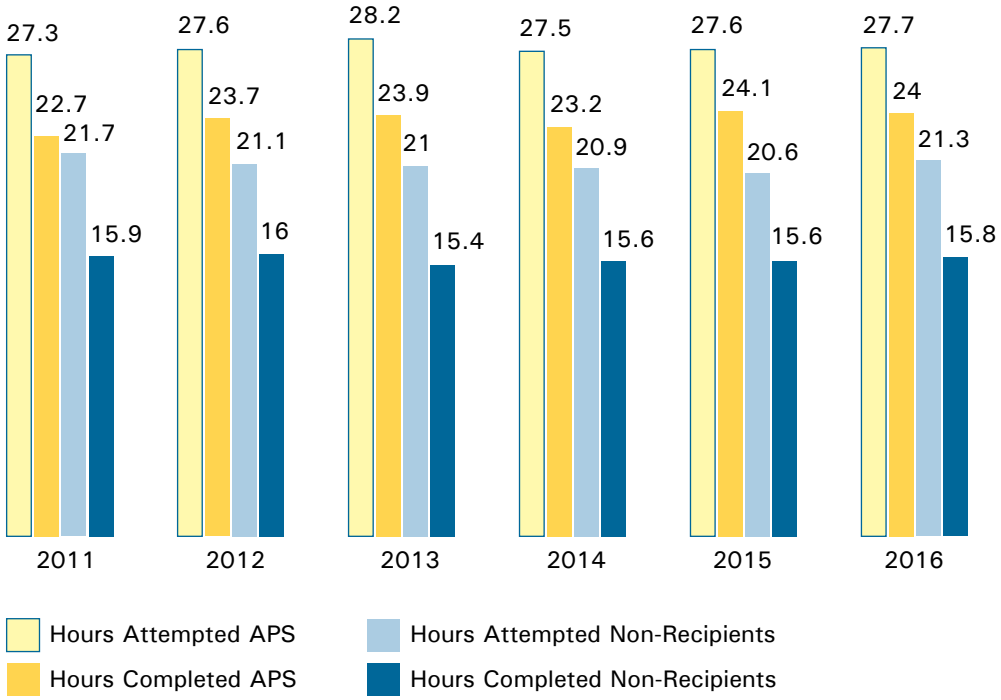
EXHIBIT 15

Percent of the Class of 2017 Enrolled at UA Needing Developmental Math Coursework



EXHIBIT 16

Average Credit Hours Attempted and Completed per Year at UA for High School Classes of 2011-2016



APS recipients persist into their second year at the University of Alaska at higher rates than other students (Exhibit 17). 92% of APS recipients in the Class of 2015 were enrolled during their second year (2017 fiscal year) at the University of Alaska, compared with 51% of non-recipients.

Finally, since the program began, APS recipients have consistently pursued bachelor's degrees at the University of Alaska at higher rates than non-recipients (Exhibit 18). 84% of APS recipients the Class of 2011 pursued bachelor's degrees, compared to 57% of non-recipients. The most recent APS recipients from the Class of 2017 entering the University of Alaska this fall enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at a rate 25 percentage points more than non-recipients (83% vs. 58%).

EXHIBIT 17

Percent of the Class of 2011-2015 First Year Students at the University of Alaska who Persisted into their Second Year

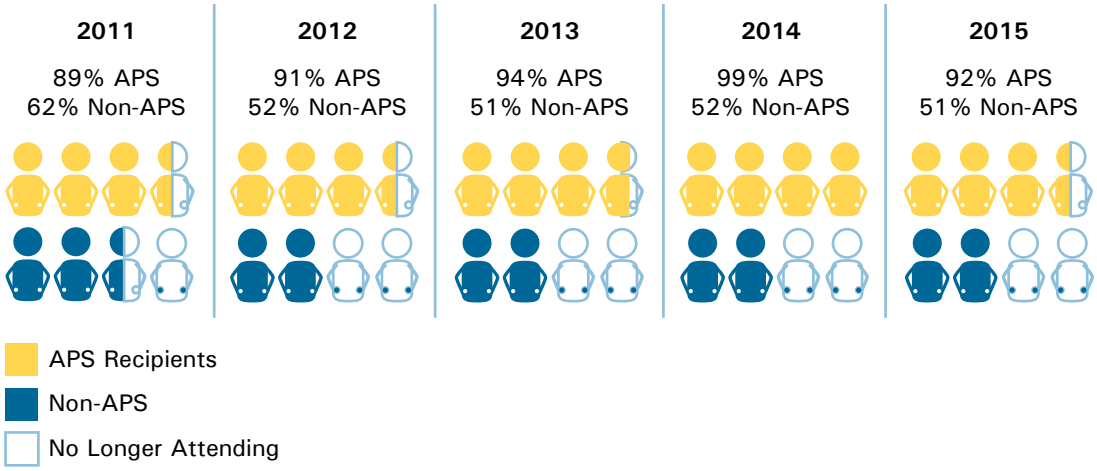
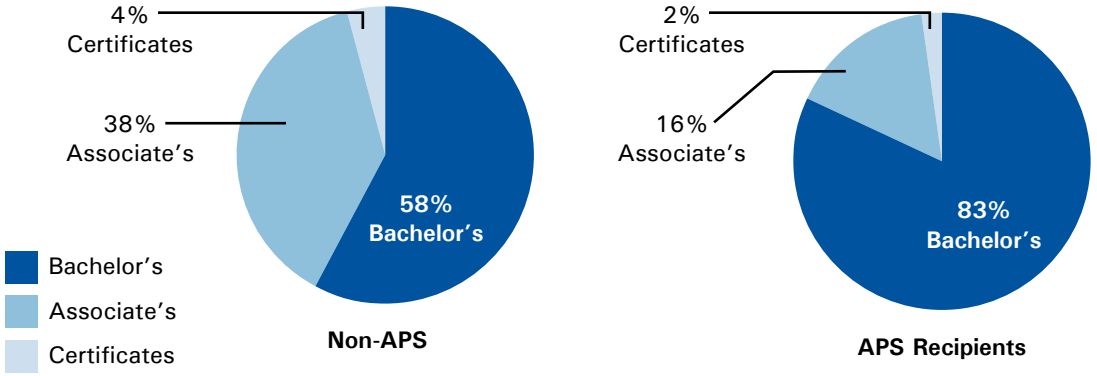


EXHIBIT 18

Class of 2017 First-Time UA Freshmen Fall 2017 by Degree Level Sought



APS AND NON-APS ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA*

EXHIBIT 19

	2015 HS Graduates		2016 HS Graduates		2017 HS Graduates#	
	APS Recipients	Non-APS	APS Recipients	Non-APS	APS Recipients	Non-APS
First-time Freshmen Attending UA within One Year After Graduation	862	1,337	872	1,193	759	1,216
% Bachelor's	82%	57%	86%	58%	83%	58%
% Associate's	16%	39%	12%	38%	16%	38%
% Certificates	2%	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%
% Taking Developmental Courses	5%	35%	6%	37%	3%	26%
Average Credit Hours Attempted per year	27.6	20.6	27.7	21.3	n/a	n/a
Average Credit Hours Completed per year	24.1	15.6	24.0	15.8	n/a	n/a

*Non-recipients may include students who were eligible for the scholarship but did not receive it at the University of Alaska, and past APS recipients who no longer meet continuing eligibility requirements. However, non-recipient outcomes primarily reflect APS ineligible students.

Credit hours attempted and completed are not yet available for the Class of 2017; these data will be available at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

APS Highlight (7)

APS recipients take fewer developmental courses, and complete more credit hours

APS RECIPIENTS SUCCEED IN THE ALASKA WORKFORCE

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development statewide employment and wage data allowed the evaluation of workforce outcomes for ineligible Alaska high school graduates, eligible graduates, and APS recipients. Wages were aggregated for former and current students employed in Alaska, and these averages include part-time and seasonal wages earned in Alaska over the years measured.

To understand the role of high school APS eligibility requirements on wages, analysis compared students who met APS eligibility requirements in high school to ineligible students during their senior year and the year after the last fiscal year tracked by ACPE. The last fiscal year for each student refers to 1) the fiscal year following high school graduation or 2) the fiscal year of their last Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), whichever is latest, to serve as a proxy for leaving school regardless of certificate or degree completion.[9] These wages, when aggregated, show that APS-eligible students earned $1,666 more on average during their senior year than ineligible students, but $804 less in the year after the last fiscal year tracked by ACPE. This suggests that pursuing APS eligibility in high school may be associated with higher wages for working students, but that relationship does not persist after high school graduation. At that point, ineligible students may have a slight edge because of persistent wage growth after high school compared to students with higher rates of postsecondary attendance, or because ineligible students may enter sectors with higher wages in Alaska.

9 About half of all undergraduate degree seekers attending postsecondary in Alaska apply for the FAFSA each year, although all APS recipients are required to do so.

APS Highlight (8)

Students who received the scholarship earned much higher annual wages afterwards, on average

For more context on APS eligibility and employment patterns, APS-eligible students were employed in Alaska at similar rates as ineligible students during their senior year, and were employed at much higher rates than ineligible students two or more years after high school graduation (Exhibit 20).

Students who received the scholarship earned much higher annual wages afterwards, on average. APS recipients earned between $3,790-$6,743 more annually after high school than ineligible students, depending on their assigned eligibility level, and $8,851-$11,804 more than those who were eligible for the award but did not receive it (measured the year after the last fiscal year tracked by ACPE). Level 1 APS recipients showed the largest gains (Exhibit 21).

Top APS recipients, defined as students who have received $10,000 or more through the scholarship to support their postsecondary education, earn over $16,000 higher wages annually than ineligible students in the years after high school on average (Exhibit 22). Top recipients also earned over $12,000 more than other APS recipients who have enrolled in some postsecondary education. Top recipients include students who have enrolled in postsecondary for more terms (thus, are more likely to have graduated), and/or who received a higher level APS award than other APS recipients. Students remain eligible to receive APS awards up to six years after their high school graduation and can receive the scholarship for four years.

EXHIBIT 20

APS-Eligible Students are Employed at a Similar Rate Compared with Ineligible Students During Their Senior Year, but are Employed at a Much Higher Rate the Year After the Last Fiscal Year Tracked by ACPE

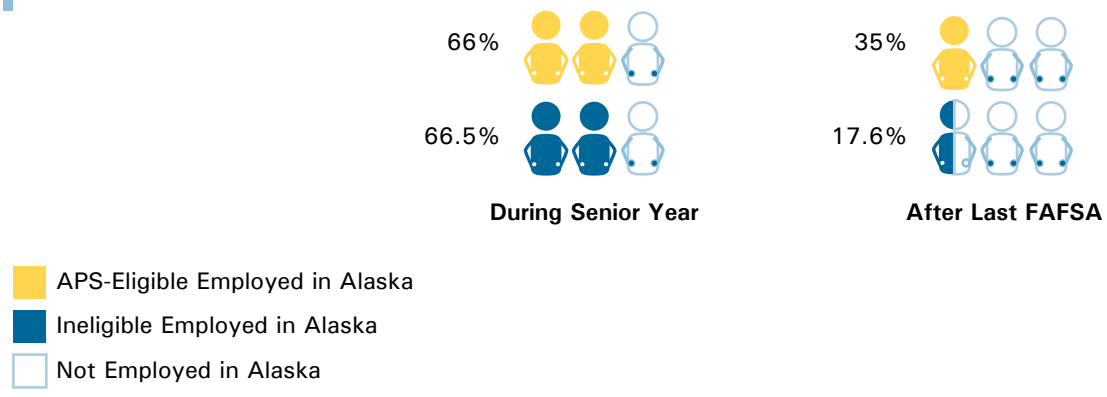


EXHIBIT 21

Receiving the Alaska Performance Scholarship is Associated with Higher Annual Wages on Average than Those Who Were Ineligible

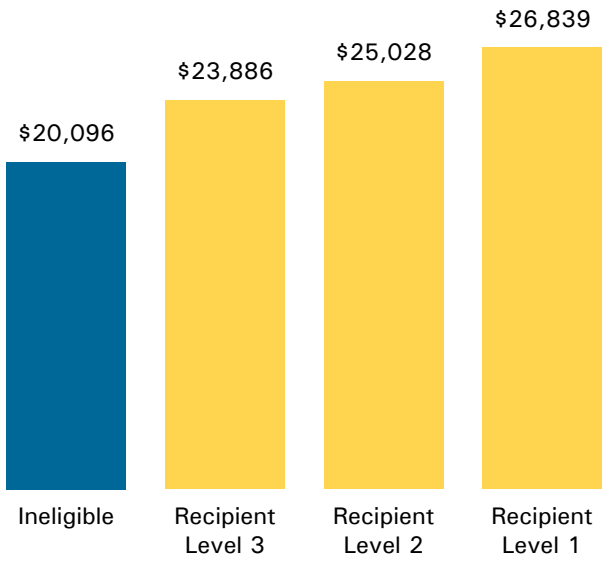
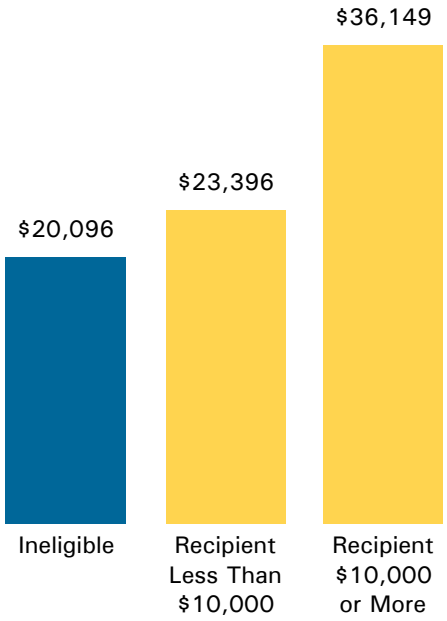


EXHIBIT 22

Top APS Recipients' Average Wages are Substantially Higher in the Years After Receiving the Scholarship Compared to Their Peers



APPENDIX A

Data Notes

ACPE's fall 2017 Alaska Performance Scholarship disbursement data includes disbursements on or before 11/14/2017, and was generated through ACPE's grants and scholarships database, which connects student high school graduation records with FAFSA (which is also used as the application for APS) data and is used to process disbursements to postsecondary education and training institutions for certified students. Data in this report may differ slightly from previous years' APS reports due to financial adjustments or differences in the timing of analyses conducted. Student disbursement and eligibility data were suppressed for districts with four or fewer students eligible for APS, to protect student privacy. Alaska high school graduates are from public and private schools and include home-schooled students, with the following exceptions: National Student Clearinghouse data excludes home-schooled students, and school district and legislative district summaries are for students from public high schools only.

High school graduation data, including high school names and student graduation dates, and APS collegiate and CTE eligibility levels are provided by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Alaska high school graduate student records from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development are matched at ACPE's request with postsecondary enrollment records provided by colleges and universities to the National Student Clearinghouse. Graduation rates were calculated four and six calendar years after first beginning enrollment date (measured as of 9/1/2017) on record for students in four-year programs, and two and three calendar years after first beginning enrollment date for students in two-year programs, but does not consider full or part-time status. Postsecondary institutions participating with the National Student Clearinghouse enroll 98% of all students in public and private US institutions. For more information: studentclearinghouse.org

APS Definitions

Ineligible- The Alaska high school graduate does not have an assigned APS eligibility level.

Eligible- The student is eligible for the APS based on meeting the requirements in high school, and may be eligible for Career and Technical Education (CTE) level only or CTE level and collegiate level. This category includes all eligible students, regardless of whether they go on to receive the APS award.

Recipient- The student has received the award in the amount associated with their assigned eligibility level for at least one term. This assigned eligibility level may be either a CTE award or collegiate award.

Non-Recipient- Unless otherwise noted, the student has not received an APS award for the reported term. The student may be APS eligible but not meet requirements after high school, be ineligible for the scholarship, or may have received the scholarship in the past but not be eligible to receive in the reporting term.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development provided aggregate wages and employment status. Average wages were calculated during the students' senior year of high school; the year after their last FAFSA application or after high school graduation (whichever was latest).

The University of Alaska provided the aggregates on APS recipients and non-APS students using University of Alaska data, which is somewhat different from ACPE's disbursement data used in this report. Non-recipients at the University of Alaska may include students who were eligible for the scholarship but did not receive it, and past APS recipients who no longer meet continuing eligibility requirements. However, non-recipient outcomes primarily reflect APS-ineligible students. Credit hours attempted and completed are not yet available for the Class of 2017 at the University of Alaska, since final data for fall 2017 will be available in mid-January 2018. These and other aggregates describing fall 2017 activity for all APS recipients reflect preliminary, opening data for the University of Alaska. The definition for developmental coursework at UA has changed since APS recipient outcomes were last reported. The University of Alaska updated the definition for developmental coursework in January 2017 in alignment with Board of Regents policy and regulation. Some courses previously counted as developmental are now correctly reported as college-level, and the current definition refers only to courses with numbers between '050' and '099.'

Email invitations for the fall 2017 APS survey were sent out via SurveyMonkey. 2,795 students with APS eligibility data responded to the survey out of all valid e-mail addresses on file for those students from the FAFSA and the Alaska Student Aid Portal, which was an 18% response rate. To incentivize survey completion among students less familiar with the Alaska Performance Scholarship and reduce nonresponse bias, students contacted for the survey were notified about a drawing for a gift card to Amazon.com that they could enter by responding to the survey and providing their e-mail address. Survey responses were not weighted for this analysis. The table below describes the response rate for each type of APS-eligible and recipient group, determined by collegiate level eligibility, or, for students with only CTE eligibility, by their corresponding level.

APS Eligibility	Response Rate	
	Eligible, No Award	Recipient
Level I	16%	26%
Level II	11%	19%
Level III	9%	16%

Quotes from the 2017 APS survey included in APS Survey Highlight sections of this report were responses to the open-ended part of the question, "Would you recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students?"

APS Recipients and Ineligible High School Graduates Employed in Alaska

	Count	Employed During Senior Year	Employed After Last FAFSA
Ineligible	25,548	66.5%	17.6%
Non-Recipients	4,393	65.2%	25.5%
Eligible	5,601	66.0%	35.0%
APS Recipients	1,208	68.9%	69.9%
Recipients Awarded > $10,000	143	61.5%	71.3%
Recipients Awarded < $10,000	1,065	69.9%	69.7%

APPENDIX B

Public High School Graduates 2016-2017 Academic Year by School District and APS Eligibility and Use

School District	Class of 2017 High School Graduates	APS-Eligible Graduates	APS Recipients
Alaska Gateway	10	**	**
Aleutian Region	2	**	**
Aleutians East Borough	15	**	**
Anchorage	3152	1027	365
Annette Island	13	**	**
Bering Strait	95	11	**
Bristol Bay Borough	11	**	**
Chatham	8	**	**
Chugach	28	13	5
Copper River	32	13	7
Cordova City	19	**	**
Craig City	28	8	**
Delta/Greely	42	7	**
Denali Borough	30	**	**
Dillingham City	42	11	6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	786	230	109
Galena City	364	87	31
Haines Borough	17	7	**
Hoonah City	6	**	**
Hydaburg City	3	**	**
Iditarod Area	13	5	**
Juneau Borough	335	99	30
Kake City	5	**	**
Kashunamiut	21	**	**
Kenai Peninsula Borough	608	155	55
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	174	55	12
Klawock City	6	**	**

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by ""

Public High School Graduates 2016-2017 Academic Year by School District and APS Eligibility and Use – Continued

School District	Class of 2017 High School Graduates	APS-Eligible Graduates	APS Recipients
Kodiak Island Borough	177	55	21
Kuspuk	14	**	**
Lake and Peninsula Borough	19	**	**
Lower Kuskokwim	191	13	8
Lower Yukon	99	**	**
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1112	271	96
Mount Edgecumbe	100	49	15
Nenana City	91	7	**
Nome Public Schools	29	9	**
North Slope Borough	117	7	**
Northwest Arctic Borough	125	14	**
Petersburg Borough	30	12	**
Pribilof	2	**	**
Private	30	30	6
Saint Mary's	10	5	**
Sitka	85	23	5
Skagway	10	**	**
Southeast Island	8	**	**
Southwest Region	33	**	**
Tanana City	2	**	**
Unalaska City	32	15	**
Valdez City	46	22	5
Wrangell	24	**	**
Yakutat	5	**	**
Yukon Flats	13	**	**
Yukon-Koyukuk	127	15	**
Yupiit	19	**	**

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by ""

APPENDIX C
Class of 2017 Legislative Districts and the Alaska Performance Scholarship

State Senate Districts – Fall 2017
Alaska Performance Scholarships Awarded

Note: The following describes public high school graduates that are APS recipients. However, graduates from correspondence schools were not assigned to legislative districts, since they often enroll students from across legislative districts.

State Senate District	APS Recipients-Class of 2017	Amount Awarded Fall 2017
A	24	$ 45,179
B	25	$ 49,340
C	66	$ 120,080
D	42	$ 75,496
E	15	$ 28,830
F	40	$ 75,494
G	71	$ 131,769
H	32	$ 58,848
I	103	$ 177,249
J	**	**
K	53	$ 98,381
L	**	**
M	46	$ 81,735
N	47	$ 87,384
O	37	$ 71,631
P	35	$ 64,794
Q	34	$ 58,851
R	24	$ 41,909
S	17	$ 29,723
T	22	$ 39,235

State House Districts – Fall 2017
Alaska Performance Scholarships Awarded

State House District	APS Recipients-Class of 2017	Amount Awarded Fall 2017
1	24	$ 45,179
2	**	**
3	25	$ 49,340
4	**	**
5	54	$ 96,599
6	12	$ 23,481
7	41	$ 73,118
8	**	**
9	11	$ 21,103
10	**	**
11	40	$ 75,494
12	**	**
13	45	$ 83,024
14	26	$ 48,745
15	32	$ 58,848
16	**	
17	52	$ 86,891
18	51	$ 90,358
19	**	**
20	**	**
21	**	**
22	53	$ 98,381
23	**	**
24	**	**
25	46	$ 81,735
26	**	**
27	**	**
28	47	$ 87,384
29	10	$ 18,132
30	27	$ 53,499
31	13	$ 23,777
32	22	$ 41,017
33	22	$ 38,044
34	12	$ 20,807
35	10	$ 14,861
36	14	$ 27,048
37	9	$ 16,051
38	8	$ 13,672
39	14	$ 24,968
40	8	$ 14,267

APPENDIX D: Survey Instrument:

1. What year did you graduate from high school?

    - 2011
    - 2012
    - 2013
    - 2014
    - 2015
    - 2016
    - 2017
    - Did not graduate from high school in any of these years

2. The Alaska Performance Scholarship is a scholarship program offered to Alaska high school graduates with qualifying GPA and test scores. Which of the following best describes you?

    - I received the Alaska Performance Scholarship
    - I qualified for the Alaska Performance Scholarship but did not use it
    - I've heard of the Alaska Performance Scholarship but didn't know if I was eligible
    - I didn't qualify for the APS but I am aware of it
    - I've never heard of the Alaska Performance Scholarship

3. Which of the following have you participated in since graduating from high school? Check all that apply.

    - Working/employment
    - Undergraduate study
    - Graduate study
    - Vocational/technical school
    - Apprenticeship
    - Starting/raising a family
    - Military/armed services
    - Volunteer service/religious mission
    - Travel
    - Other (please specify)

4. Did you attend college or a vocational/technical school in Alaska?

    - Yes
    - No
    - Other (please specify)

5. How did APS affect your decision to enroll in a degree or certificate program?

    - I would not have enrolled without APS
    - APS was a major factor in my decision to enroll
    - APS was a minor factor in my decision to enroll
    - APS had no effect on my decision to enroll
    - Don't know

6. How much of an influence was APS in the following decisions regarding your degree or certificate program?

	Major influence	Minor influence	No influence	Don't know
My decision to enroll full-time versus part-time	○	○	○	○
My decision to attend an in-state school	○	○	○	○
The degree/certificate program I chose	○	○	○	○
The number of hours I needed to work while in school	○	○	○	○

7. Have you received a degree or credential?
    - No, but I am still attending a program of study
    - No, I am no longer attending a program of study
    - Yes
8. How much did the APS affect your ability to complete your degree or credential?
    - APS was a major factor
    - APS was a minor factor
    - APS had no effect
    - Don't know
9. Do you plan to use the APS before it expires (six years from high school graduation)?
    - Yes, I have already used it
    - Yes, I plan to use it
    - No
    - Don't know
    - It has been six or more years since my high school graduation
10. How familiar are you with the following aspects of the APS?

	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not Familiar	Don't know
APS qualification requirements (GPA, ACT/SAT score, high school curriculum)	◯	◯	◯	◯
APS award levels (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3)	◯	◯	◯	◯
APS award type (collegiate, career technical)	◯	◯	◯	◯
Continuing eligibility requirements	◯	◯	◯	◯
Requirements to fill out FAFSA annually	◯	◯	◯	◯
Colleges/universities where APS can be used	◯	◯	◯	◯
The agency administering APS (ACPE)	◯	◯	◯	◯
Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)	◯	◯	◯	◯
How to find out if I'm eligible	◯	◯	◯	◯
Where to find information on APS	◯	◯	◯	◯

11. Did the availability of APS make you more likely to do any of the following in high school?

	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	APS had no effect	Don't know
Achieve better grades	○	○	○	○
Take challenging courses	○	○	○	○
Take placement exams (SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys)	○	○	○	○
Prepare for placement exams	○	○	○	○
Seek out college counselor/academic advising	○	○	○	○
Consider career options	○	○	○	○

12. Would you recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students?
    - Yes
    - No
    - Don't know
    - Why or why not? _____
13. If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a $100 Amazon gift card, please leave your e-mail address below. _____