



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

HB 155 An Act relating to eligibility for the Alaska performance scholarship program

The goal of HB 155 is to give students the opportunity to take Career Technical Education (CTE) courses that count towards eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS). All too often students who desire CTE classes do not have room in their schedule to simultaneously take individual CTE classes or follow a CTE track while still meeting APS eligibility. This is especially true with limited course offerings in small to medium schools and scheduling challenges.

HB 155 offers greater flexibility for students as they choose courses and recognizes the importance of CTE in student preparation for college, career, apprenticeships, and other postsecondary training opportunities. Financial assistance provided by APS is vital to many young Alaskans and it is important that students who choose a path that includes CTE have access to these resources.

All students can benefit from CTE. Whether college bound or not, CTE offers valuable skills and a pathway to certifications and jobs.

National research tells us that graduation rates are higher for students who take CTE courses, particularly those who take three or more courses as part of a coordinated program of study. These students are often referred to as “concentrators”. In Alaska, data shows that students who are CTE concentrators are 19% more likely to graduate than their counterparts.

HB 155 offers two avenues for a student to incorporate CTE courses in his/her APS application. Under the Math/Science Option, CTE is added to a list of options a student can choose from to replace one credit of social studies with one credit of CTE. (Note - A credit is equivalent to one year, or two semesters of course work.)

For students pursuing a more rigorous CTE track, HB155 allows a student to replace two years of world language with two years of CTE, with one year required to be in a sequence of increasing rigor within a career cluster.

Career and Technical Education offers students the opportunity to apply knowledge in a real world context, to develop practices that enrich their lives, while attaining skills that can lead to jobs and future occupations.

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