

## Mary Hakala

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**From:** TRISH ZUGG <Trish.Zugg@matsuk12.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:06 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andi Story  
**Cc:** Mary Hakala; JUSTIN AINSWORTH  
**Subject:** HB 155 Eligibility for APS

Good Morning Representative Story,

I'm writing in support of HB 155 which allows CTE credits to be used for eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Simply put, Career & Technical Education (CTE) works for students. In a data-driven decision making era, CTE certainly speaks volumes with its data on success.

Speaking from a data standpoint, for the Mat-Su Borough School District (MSBSD), 97% of our CTE Concentrators graduate from high school. That is compared to a respectable overall graduation rate of 83-85%. This is certainly because CTE adds relevance to education and answers the question of "when will I ever use this Math" or "when will I ever use this Science". At a Concentrator level, rigorous academics are embedded with the skills and employability training covered over a series of courses which increase in rigor in a single program area. Where academics and learning make sense contextually in a student's future, lifelong learning is also breed.

Further, 73% of CTE Concentrators in MSBSD go on to postsecondary, advanced training, the military, or employment. Affordability and scholarship to help ALL those invested and aligned for postsecondary study in CTE, certainly is a smart return on investment for Alaskans. Motivation for further training and study is amplified with affordability and scholarship, that coupled with a student who has already launched their skills training in high school is sure to raise the bar for program completion. Pursuit of postsecondary training will match our students/young adults with placement into high wage, high demand, livable wage futures.

As Alaska is dominantly a resource extraction and unique infrastructure state, and one with an aging population seeking quality healthcare providers; CTE success data in these "hard to fill in the workforce" and labor market demanded program areas, proves to be the best return on investment for Alaska!

Thank-you for all you do in support of effective 21st Century CTE, workforce development, and for supporting postsecondary options for All of Alaska's training options!

**Patricia Zugg - CTE Program Administrator**

**Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

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~ Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) – Region V Policy Committee

*Our future is in Career Connected Learning!*