

Mary Hakala

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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www.matsuk12.us

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

Our future is in Career Connected Learning!



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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February 13, 2020

The Honorable Andi Story
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Story:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide communication regarding HB 155, which would expand the eligibility requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) to include a high school career and technical education (CTE) pathway. The Commission is very aware of the need to expand CTE opportunities in Alaska and supports CTE as integral to the future success of our Alaska students and our state. The Commission's next meeting is in April, and the agenda includes consideration of a formal resolution in support of HB 155.

If passed, HB 155 will allow more Alaska students with the opportunity to be eligible for the APS, and will specifically expand options for high school CTE students. Creating this high school pathway aligns with the existing APS CTE award. A CTE pathway is becoming increasingly urgent, based on data that 65% of Alaska's best jobs in 2025 will require a postsecondary credential, including a high need for an Alaska workforce with CTE credentials.

Thank you for your commitment to ensure Alaska students have an opportunity to pursue their education goals, and for the privilege of providing this letter regarding HB 155.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Butler".

Stephanie Butler
Executive Director



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Alaska Council of School Administrators

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Representative Andi Story
Alaska State Legislature
Capital Building, Rm 403
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Story,

The Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) offers its support for HB 155, “an act relating to eligibility for the Alaska performance scholarship program.” We recognize the important role Career and Technical Education (CTE) plays in student learning and applaud your effort to expand eligibility requirements for students who wish to continue their education through the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS).

ACSA’s purpose is to provide a voice that champions possibilities for **all** students, including those interested in pursuing apprenticeships and other postsecondary training opportunities. We have continually prioritized CTE in our annual [Joint Position Statements](#) (attached), because we recognize the valuable skills and opportunities it offers students. Students concentrated in CTE programs are more likely to graduate and see higher career earnings than their peers who focused on academic courses but did not obtain a college degree.

Data from 2018 shows that economically disadvantaged students from low income households as well as students from rural communities are more likely to enroll in CTE courses. For these students, HB 155 provides a critical opportunity to build future-ready skills.

This legislation would benefit students across the state and strengthen Alaska’s economic growth and stability. We are eager to support this policy and work together to advance these shared goals.

Thank you for your commitment to improving public education for all students in Alaska. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Robin Jones
President

Mary Hakala

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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*

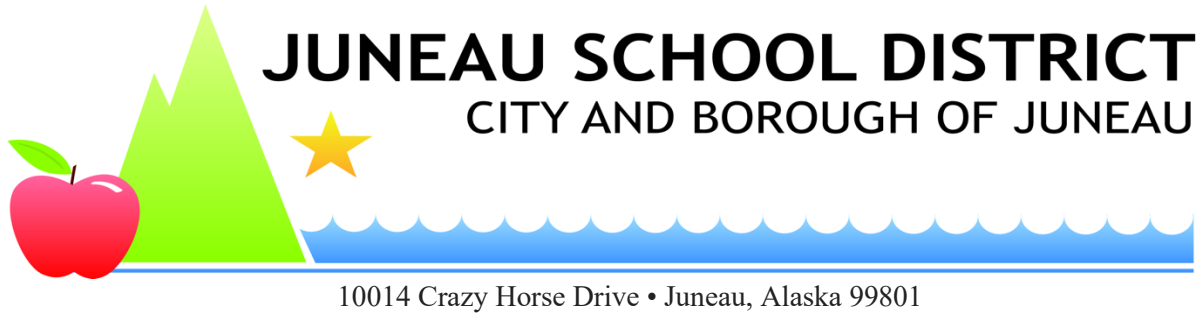
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February 17, 2020

Representative Andi Story
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Story:

I am writing in support of HB 155, *An Act relating to the eligibility for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) program*. This bill now provides our students the opportunity in their high school schedules to take Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that count towards the APS program.

HB155 provides students the opportunity to prepare for postsecondary education and Alaska's workforce while in high school. This bill support students taking both both rigorous academic and career and technical courses that helps prepare them for careers in the trades, business, health sciences, and STEM.

97% of Juneau School District students who take 2 credits in a career pathway graduate from our high schools and 80% of those students go onto further education and/or employment (Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Perkins Reports 2018-2020).

Currently, our school district requires 23 credits to graduate within a 24-credit earning window in 6 periods per day over 4 years. There is not much time in a student's schedule to engage in CTE career pathways if they want to be eligible for the current APS scholarship.

The new CTE option within the APS now provides the much-needed opportunity for students to engage in these high demand career courses and pathways while in high school as we prepare them for further training and entre to Alaska's workforce.

Thank you for your support of Career and Technical Education! Feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Carin Smolin
Career and Technical Education Coordinator
Juneau School District
907.523.1877
carin.smolin@juneauschools.org

