



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
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