



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

House Bill 155

February 17, 2020

Sponsor Statement

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

The goal of HB 155 is to allow Career Technical Education (CTE) courses to 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 pursue a CTE track and meet APS eligibility.

HB 155 recognizes the importance of CTE for all students, whether they are headed to college, apprenticeships, postsecondary training or entering the workforce.

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 their APS application. Under the math/science option, a student may 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.

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.

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

Contact

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