

**SENATE BILL NO. 56**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS DUNBAR, Gray-Jackson

Introduced: 2/6/23

Referred: Education, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the Alaska performance scholarship program."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.43.820(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Subject to appropriation, the commission shall award an Alaska  
5 performance scholarship to an applicant who

6 (1) is a resident of the state as defined in AS 01.10.055;

7 (2) graduated or will graduate within **12** [SIX] months from a high  
8 school in the state;

9 (3) except as provided in (c) of this section, has completed **or is**  
10 **enrolled in** a core academic curriculum of high school level coursework that includes

11 (A) four years of mathematics, four years of language arts, four  
12 years of science, and four years of social studies, one year of which may  
13 include a foreign language, an Alaska Native language, fine arts, [OR] cultural  
14 heritage, **or career and technical education**; [OR]

15 (B) three years of mathematics, four years of language arts,

1 three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of

2 (i) a foreign language or an Alaska Native language; or

3 (ii) career and technical education, one year of

4 which includes two semesters of sequentially more rigorous content

5 within a career cluster; or

6 (C) three years of mathematics, four years of language arts,

7 three years of science, four years of social studies, one year of which may

8 be career and technical education, and two years of a foreign language or

9 an Alaska Native language; and

10 (4) has a minimum grade-point average in high school of 2.5 or higher;  
11 the department shall set by regulation minimum requirements based on a substantially  
12 similar standard for districts that do not assign grades [;

13 (5) HAS ACHIEVED A MINIMUM SCORE ON A

14 (A) COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION; OR

15 (B) STANDARDIZED EXAMINATION DESIGNED TO  
16 MEASURE A STUDENT'S LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS TO MAKE THE  
17 TRANSITION TO WORK, AS SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

18 (6) IS ENROLLED IN GOOD STANDING IN A COURSE OF  
19 STUDY AT A QUALIFIED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE  
20 THAT IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE OR  
21 DEGREE].

22 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43.820(g) is amended to read:

23 (g) In this section,

24 (1) "career cluster" means a group of jobs and industries that are  
25 related by skills or products;

26 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.

27 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.43.820 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

28 (h) Not later than January 31 of each year, a district shall notify each student  
29 in the district who is enrolled in grade 11 of the remaining academic requirements the  
30 student must meet to be awarded an Alaska performance scholarship at each level  
31 described in AS 14.43.825(a).

1 (i) Not later than September 30 of each year, the commission shall notify each  
 2 applicant awarded a scholarship under (a) of this section that the applicant has been  
 3 awarded an Alaska performance scholarship. The notice must

4 (1) identify the Alaska performance scholarship level awarded as  
 5 described in AS 14.43.825(a); and

6 (2) inform the applicant that

7 (A) the commission may disburse the award only if the  
 8 applicant meets the requirements described in (k) of this section; and

9 (B) the commission will adjust the applicant's award under the  
 10 circumstances described in (j) of this section.

11 (j) If, at the time an applicant awarded an Alaska performance scholarship  
 12 graduates from high school, the applicant's grade-point average differs from the grade-  
 13 point average on which the commission based the applicant's award, the commission  
 14 shall adjust the applicant's award in accordance with the applicable Alaska  
 15 performance scholarship level described in AS 14.43.825(a).

16 (k) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, and except as provided in (c) of this  
 17 section, the commission may disburse an Alaska performance scholarship awarded to  
 18 an applicant under this section only if the applicant

19 (1) has, at the time of the applicant's graduation from high school,

20 (A) completed the core academic curriculum of high school  
 21 level coursework described in (a)(3) of this section; and

22 (B) met the minimum grade-point average in high school  
 23 described in (a)(4) of this section; and

24 (2) is enrolled in good standing in a course of study at a qualified  
 25 postsecondary institution in this state that is intended to result in the award of a  
 26 certificate or degree.

27 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.43.825(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) The maximum annual awards for the Alaska performance scholarships are  
 29 as follows:

30 (1) the first award level is \$7,000 [\$4,755] and requires a

31 [(A)] 3.5 grade-point average or above [; AND

1 (B) VERY HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A COLLEGE  
2 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION];

3 (2) the second award level is \$5,250 [\$3,566] and requires a

4 [(A)] 3.0 grade-point average or above [; AND

5 (B) HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A COLLEGE  
6 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION];

7 (3) the third award level is \$3,500 [\$2,378] and requires a

8 [(A)] 2.5 grade-point average or above [; AND

9 (B) MODERATELY HIGH MINIMUM SCORE ON A  
10 COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION].

11 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.43.825(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) A student's eligibility for a scholarship terminates eight [SIX] years after  
13 the date the student graduates from high school unless the student qualifies for an  
14 extension of time allowed by the department by regulation.