



HB 31: Improving the Alaska Performance Scholarship

Representative Andi Story

The Alaska Performance Scholarship

Passed in statute in 2010

Goals:

- Increasing k-12 rigor
- Keep high achieving students in-state
- Grow Alaska's workforce

Established the \$400 million HEIF to fund the APS

Where we are now

- Use is less than half of what was anticipated
- Use has been significantly declining since 2016
- This means missed opportunities for Alaskans and Alaska*

**Alaska Performance Scholarship Program Review and Recommendations, 2021, Prepared for Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education by McKinley Research Group, LCC*

Strengthening tomorrow's workforce

UA's graduates Alaska hire rate

96.9%

of working graduates
are Alaska residents

For comparison, residency is ...

- 79.3% for all Alaska workers



April 12, 2021

House Education Committee

Alaska Performance Scholarship Program Review and Recommendations

Prepared for:



Making APS more accessible

- Earlier Notification
 - Students qualify for APS 12 months prior to graduation from high school
 - Notify students of their progress towards qualification their junior year
 - Notify students of receipt of award in the Fall of their senior year
- Add more time to use the award
 - Expand the number of years the scholarship can be used after high school graduation from six to eight
- Allow more students to utilize CTE options

More flexibility in curriculum for CTE

class of 2018 & beyond

ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP



To apply for the APS and other financial aid opportunities, students must complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by June 30th of each year. Visit fafsa.ed.gov

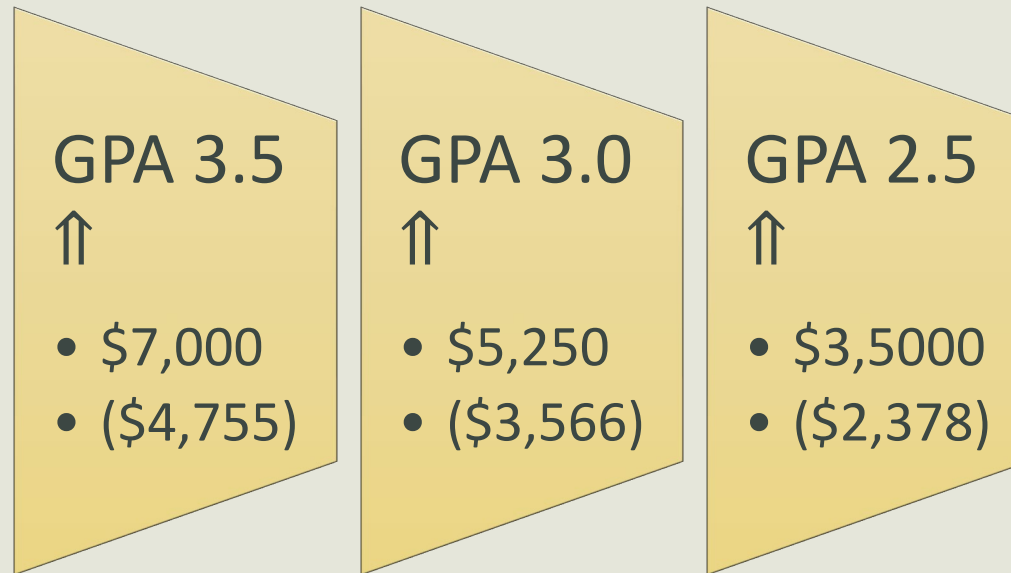
Maintaining academic rigor with CTE

<p>Required Curriculum (for all levels)</p> <p>Students can choose either curriculum option.</p> <p>Contact your counselor for information about APS courses. Approved courses may also be available through resources such as the University of Alaska or others. Eligibility is determined based upon courses with a letter grade contained in your high school's permanent student record.</p>	<p>Math & Science Curriculum: (A)</p>		<p>Social Studies & Language Curriculum: (B)</p>		<p>Social Studies & Language Curriculum: (C)</p>	
	Science (4 credits)		Science (3 credits)		Science (3 credits)	
	Math (4 credits)		Math (3 credits)		Math (3 credits)	
	Social Studies (4 credits)		Social Studies (4 credits)		Social Studies (4 credits)	
	Language Arts (4 credits)	Option: 1 credit CTE	Language Arts (4 credits)		Language Arts (4 credits)	Option: 1 credit CTE
		World Language (2 credits)	Or 2 credits CTE* <small>same language for both credits</small>	World Language (2 credits)	<small>same language for both credits</small>	

*1 year sequentially more rigorous content within a career cluster

Increase award amount to keep APS competitive

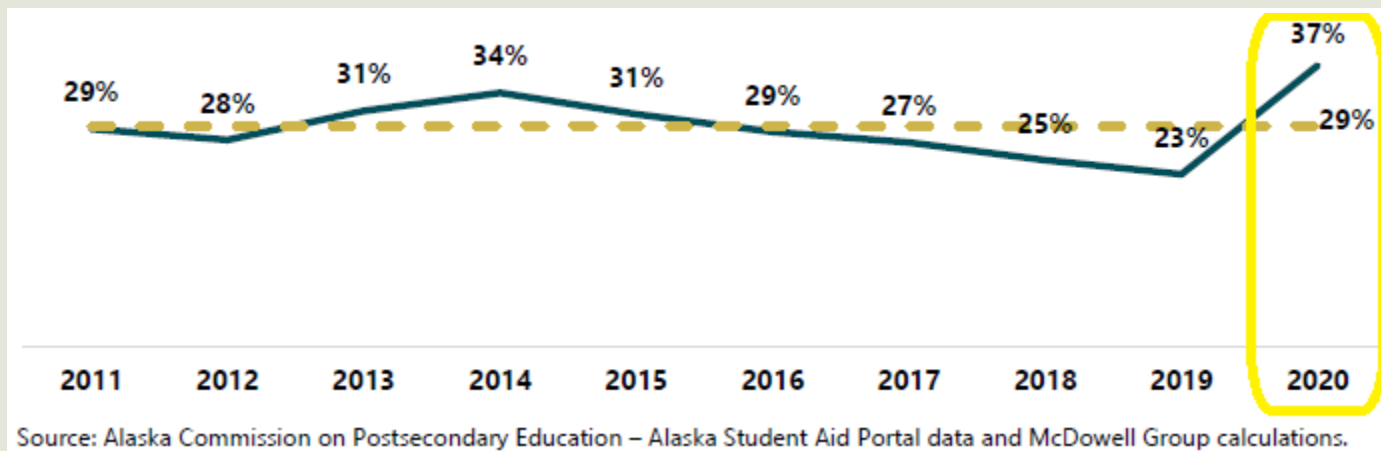
- On average, tuition for Alaska's colleges and universities has increased by 44% over the last 12 years, while the support provided to high achieving students through the APS program has not increased at all.



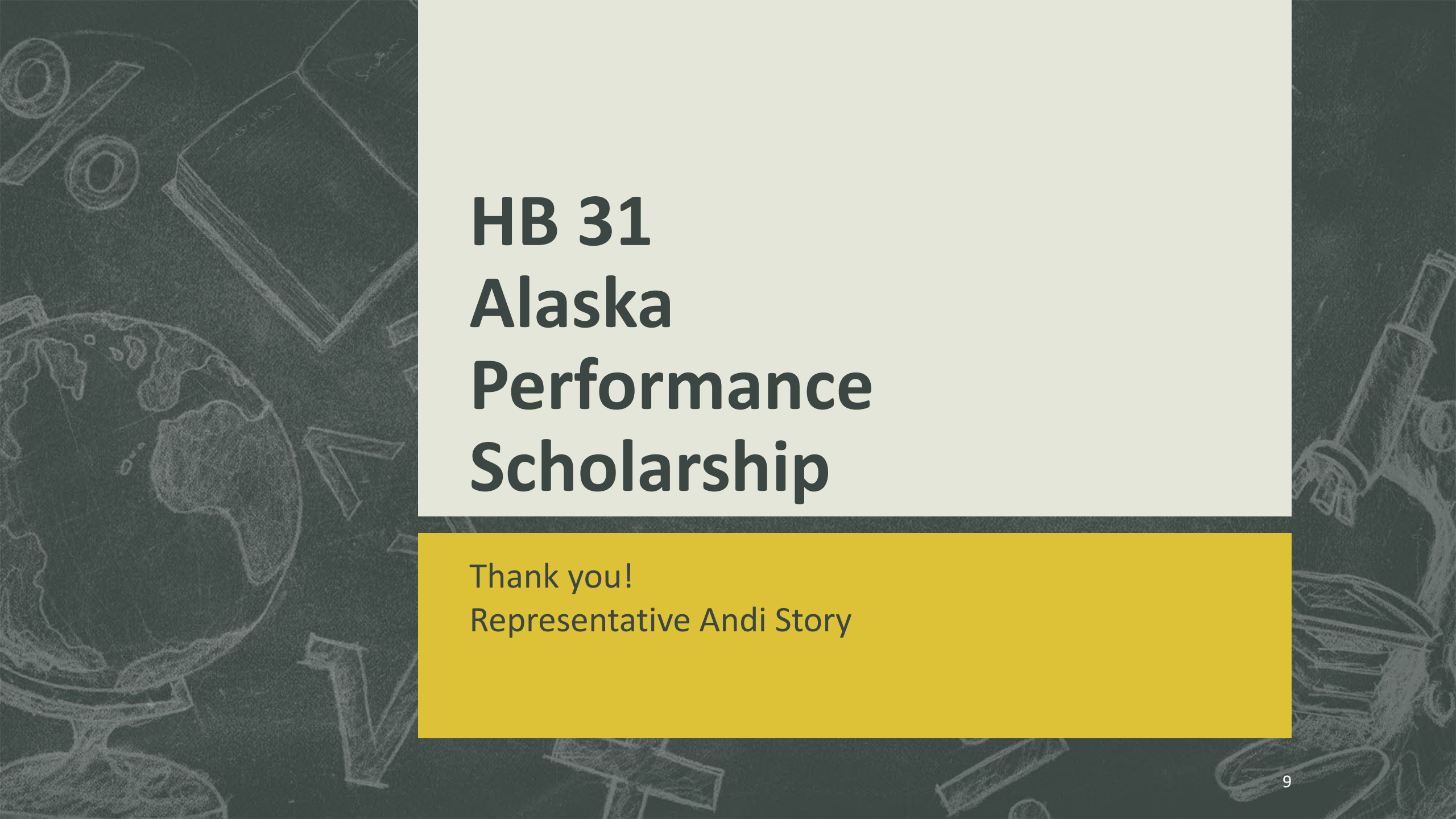
Source: University of Alaska

Reduce barriers for eligibility

- Some studies show that GPA is a better indicator of postsecondary success than entrance exam scores.
 - Many colleges are dropping entrance exam requirements.
- When the testing requirement was waved during COVID, many more students qualified.
 - Prior to 2020, lack of access to testing, test preparation, and cost was a barrier.
 - More fair to remote areas



Percentage of students who qualify for APS by year.



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Thank you!
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