

Alaska State Senate

Senator Forrest Dunbar



Session:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-6944

Interim:

1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 269-0246

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Summary of Changes

SB 56: AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY

Version B to Version S, 5.1.2023

Section 4

Page 4, line 12

Insert language in the section regarding grade-point averages (GPAs) and test score requirements to read “... grade point average or above, **or the equivalent established under (g) of this section;**” This is to ensure students who attend schools that do not award GPAs are still able to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Section 7

Page 5, line 5

Insert a new subsection (g) directing the Department of Education and Early Development to establish regulations creating an equivalent rating for schools that do not award GPAs.

NEW: Section 8

Page 5, line 20

Adds a conforming change regarding the changes made in section 4 and 7 by amending the definition of “grade-point average” in AS 14.43.849(2) to include “or the equivalent as established by the department regulation.”

NEW: Section 6

Page 5, line 1

Amends AS 14.43.825(c) to extend a student’s eligibility to use the APS award by one semester for each semester an award recipient is enrolled part-time and still in good standing. Currently, if a student were to be in part-time status for a semester, they would only be eligible for half of their award that semester and forgo the remaining funds. This language allows for flexibility and ensures students are able to use their full award.

Version A to Version B, 4.24.2023

Section 1

Page 1, line 7

Allows a student to qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) 18 months prior to graduating from an Alaska state high school instead of 12 months.

Section 3

Page 2, line 28

Requires school districts to inform 9th and 10th grade students about the Alaska Performance Scholarship before January 15th.

Require students be notified of their APS eligibility progress by December 31st of their junior year instead of January 31st.

Require APS award recipients be notified they are receiving the award by August 15th of each year instead of September 30th.

Districts must also provide information about the ability to and requirements for increasing their award level. These requirements are outlined in Section 6.

Section 4

Page 4, line 31

Allows a GPA **or** a minimum qualifying score on a college entrance exam to qualify for eligibility.

NEW: Section 6

Adds a subsection allowing award recipients to qualify for a higher award level while they are enrolled at a qualified postsecondary institution. Postsecondary institutions must review each award recipients' institutional GPAs each time recipients complete two semesters. If their institutional GPA qualifies for a higher award level under the original qualifying requirements, their award will be increased accordingly.