

House Education Committee Bill

HB 148

# APS statistics

- 2011- Alaska Performance Scholarship was first offered
- 29,059- Total number of students who have earned the APS
- 11,866- Total number of students who have used the APS
- More than \$100 million awarded to students

# HB 148 addresses identified problems

- Notification issues
- Financial barriers
- APS trends
- Testing barriers
- APS eligibility challenges
- “Step-up” provision
- CTE pathways

# Notification

Problem: students are not aware of the APS eligibility soon enough in order to influence their college decision to stay in Alaska for their postsecondary education.

44%- percentage of students who did not use the APS stated it was because they had already made the decision to attend school outside Alaska when they learned of their APS eligibility.

Solution: HB 148 adds several new dates

# HB 148 adds new date #1

Notification of the Alaska Performance Scholarship in the ninth and tenth grades.

Goal is to create higher awareness of the Alaska Performance Scholarship award levels and associated requirements and pathways.

# HB 148 adds new date #2

18 months before graduation (previously 6 months)

- The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) shall award an APS to a student:
  - Has completed, is enrolled in, or plans to enroll in coursework to earn an Alaska Performance Scholarship

# HB 148 adds new date #3

By December 31

- The date when a District shall notify students who are enrolled in their Junior year of the requirements they need to complete for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

# HB 148 adds new date #4

August 15 (previously September 30)

- Final verification has been made and the commission shall make notification to a senior who has graduated and they have met all of the requirements for an Alaska Performance Scholarship.



# Cost of attendance changes 2010-2022

Institution Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% +/- 2010 to 2022
Alaska Bible College	\$ 10,430	\$ 10,730	\$ 11,130	\$ 15,900	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,300	\$ 19,560	\$ 19,654	\$ 19,980	\$ 20,278	\$ 19,471	\$ 20,856	100%
Alaska Christian College	\$ 15,994	\$ 15,994	\$ 18,094	\$ 18,094	\$ 20,094	\$ 20,094	\$ 20,094	\$ 20,544	\$ 21,594	\$ 21,969	\$ 22,344	\$ 22,344	40%
Alaska Pacific University	\$ 39,710	\$ 40,460	\$ 43,180	\$ 43,180	\$ 31,210	\$ 31,010	\$ 33,690	\$ 34,210	\$ 34,600	\$ 34,600	\$ 34,670	\$ 34,670	-13%
Ilisagvik College	\$ 17,800	\$ 17,620	\$ 17,620	\$ 17,620	\$ 17,990	\$ 20,120	\$ 20,600	\$ 20,600	\$ 21,080	\$ 21,080	\$ 21,560	\$ 21,560	21%
University of Alaska Anchorage	\$ 17,611	\$ 17,917	\$ 18,859	\$ 18,620	\$ 20,063	\$ 24,034	\$ 25,098	\$ 27,098	\$ 27,190	\$ 26,713	\$ 29,604	\$ 30,880	75%
University of Alaska Fairbanks	\$ 16,192	\$ 16,488	\$ 17,148	\$ 16,484	\$ 17,398	\$ 18,104	\$ 18,556	\$ 19,642	\$ 20,281	\$ 22,170	\$ 22,366	\$ 22,438	39%
University of Alaska Southeast	\$ 14,418	\$ 14,928	\$ 18,340	\$ 18,657	\$ 19,861	\$ 17,978	\$ 21,462	\$ 19,876	\$ 20,140	\$ 19,744	\$ 20,608	\$ 20,608	43%
Average													44%

Source: IPEDS

# APS awards

Issue: The Alaska Performance Scholarship awards have remained the same since inception of the program in 2011. Tuition, books, fees, etc have increased over the past 12 years.

	<b>Current</b>	<b>HB 148</b>
First award level:	\$4,755	\$7,000
Second award level:	\$3,566	\$5,250
Third award level:	\$2,378	\$3,500

# APS use decreasing

The percentage of students using the APS has steadily decreased since 2011, with only 17% of students in 2022 eligible (lowest since program inception)

**Table 3. APS-Eligible High School Graduates' Use of APS the Fall Following Graduation, 2011-2020**

Graduating Class	APS Recipients	APS-Eligible Graduates	Percent Using APS
2011	844	2,338	36%
2012	846	2,211	38%
2013	858	2,482	35%
2014	888	2,602	34%
2015	869	2,565	34%
2016	902	2,328	39%
2017	835	2,289	36%
2018	721	2,106	34%
2019	644	1,942	33%
2020	707	2,989	24%
<b>Average</b>			<b>34%</b>

Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McDowell Group calculations.

# APS Trend: Contributing factors

- 2016 change in State policy
  - 2016 is the last year the State required and paid for high school students to take a standardized test (ACT, SAT or WorkKeys).
- Fiscal influences decisions
  - The 2018 veto of the APS (later reversed) created uncertainty for graduates and their families in the college decision-making process. Additional funding questions over the last several years contribute to uncertainty.
- Standardized tests
  - Access to test locations, costs, and difficulty of meeting required cut scores

# Standardized Testing

- 3,000
  - The number of students taking the SAT or ACT in 2017
  - A decrease from 4,100 students in 2016 (State stopped paying for test)
- National change
  - A 2020 University of Chicago study found grades were five times better than the ACT at predicting college success.
- Research finds test scores disproportionately serve as barriers for underrepresented minorities, low-income students, and English language learners.

# Barriers to Eligibility

Graduates surveyed from the class of 2019

**Figure 6. Percent of Graduating Seniors Who Did Not Meet Each APS Eligibility Requirement, 2019**



Source: Northern Economics, Inc. *Alaska Performance Scholarship Eligibility Survey*. Prepared for Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, July 2020.

Note: Table reflects responses from 27 school districts representing less than half of Alaska students.

# Test case: no standardized testing

During the COVID-19 pandemic, standardized tests were discontinued for 2020 graduates

**Table 2. High School Graduate APS Eligibility Rate Change by Region, 2019-2020**

Region	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020 (Percentage Points)	Change 2019-2020 (Percentage)
Far North	10%	24%	+14	+138%
Southwest	17%	28%	+11	+66%
Southeast	26%	40%	+15	+57%
Southcentral	27%	40%	+14	+51%
Interior	25%	33%	+9	+35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>+63%</b>

Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McDowell Group calculations.

# Change in requirements

CS version gives students the option of choosing either their Grade Point Average (GPA) OR testing results.

	HB 148	GPA required
First award level:	\$7,000	3.5
Second award level:	\$5,250	3.0
Third award level:	\$3,500	2.5



# “Step-up” provision

If students increase their GPA (or equivalent) while in college, they can increase their APS award level.

	HB 148	GPA required
First award level:	\$7,000	3.5
Second award level:	\$5,250	3.0
Third award level:	\$3,500	2.5

# APS encourages college graduates

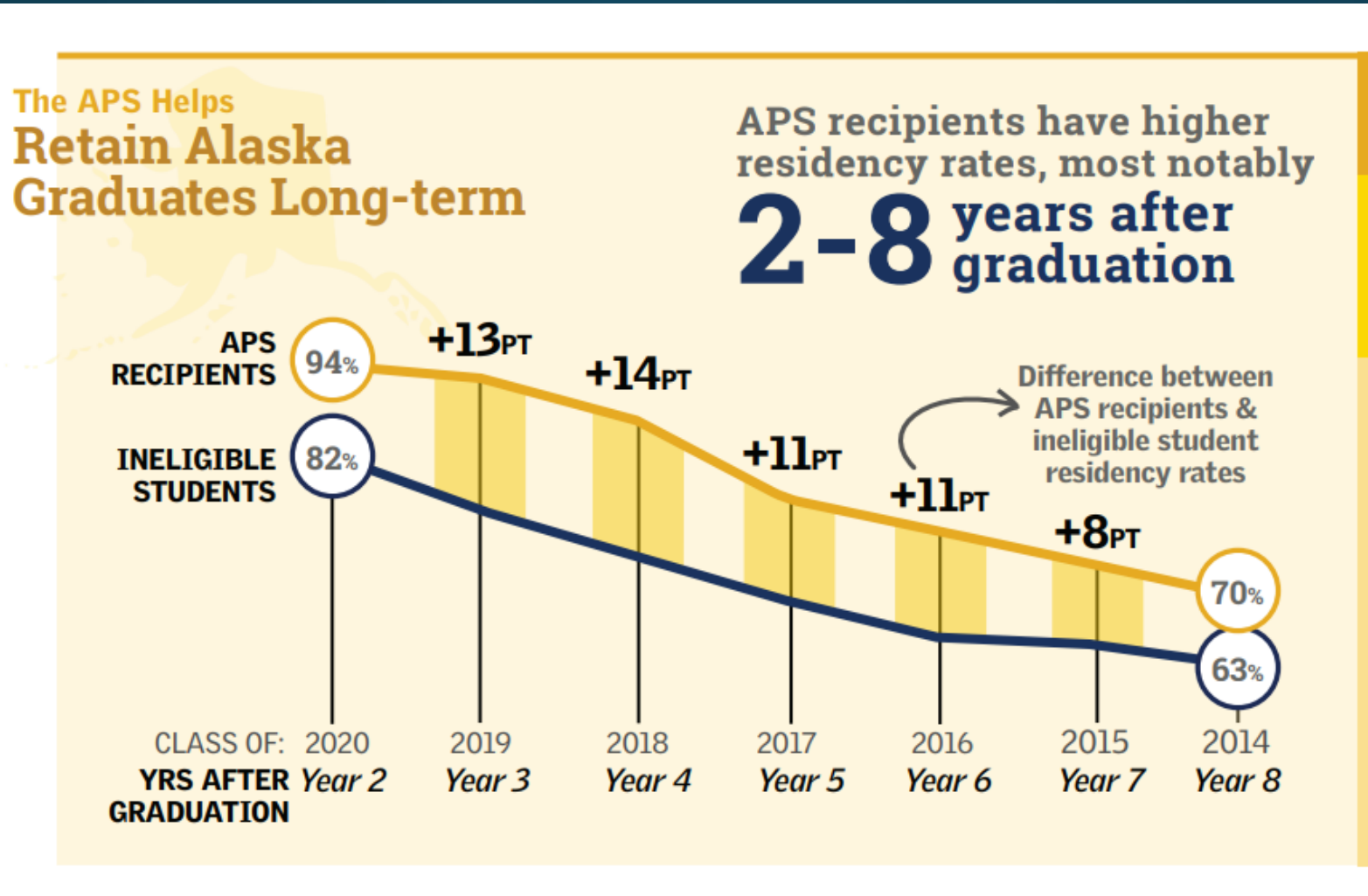
	APS students	Non-APS students
Received an undergrad degree within 6 years	60%	29%
Received Bachelor's degree within 6 years	53%	24%
Received certificate or occupational endorsement within 3 years	36%	21%

# Extends eligibility

HB 148 extends the time period to use the Alaska Performance Scholarship from six years to eight years.

Students can only use four years of APS funding during that eight-year time period.

# Graduates staying in Alaska



# CTE + postsecondary schooling

24 Alaska postsecondary institutions qualify to enroll students with APS

**Table 8. Alaska Performance Scholarship Recipients by Institution, 2011-2020**

	# of Recipients	% of Total Recipients
<b>University of Alaska</b>	<b>25,745</b>	<b>97%</b>
UA - Anchorage	15,577	59%
UA - Fairbanks	8,887	34%
UA - Southeast	1,281	5%
Alaska Pacific University	176	1%
AVTEC	157	1%
Charter College	132	1%
Alaska Career College	118	<1%
Alaska Bible College	49	<1%
Alaska Christian College	30	<1%
Trend Setters	19	<1%
All others*	43	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,469</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: ACPE.

\*Includes 10 institutions, each of which represented 10 or fewer APS recipients.

# Workforce Development

A study by the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce development from the graduating class of 2014 & 2015 measuring the number that are employed.

	2014	2015
APS graduates	73%	70%
Graduates who were ineligible for APS	62%	62%
Eligible for APS, but did not accept it	48%	43%

# HB 148 benefits

- Notification issues
- Financial barriers
- APS trends
- Testing barriers
- APS eligibility challenges
- “Step-up” provision
- CTE pathways

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Information contained in this presentation may be found:

Alaska Performance Scholarship outcomes report 2023

[APS\\_OutcomesReport\\_2023.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#)

Alaska Performance Scholarship Program Review and  
Recommendations, January 2021

[ACPE\\_APS\\_Program\\_Review\\_and\\_Recs\\_2021.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#)