

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
JOINT MEETING  
HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 13, 2013

8:01 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Representative Lynn Gattis, Chair  
Representative Lora Reinbold, Vice Chair  
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Paul Seaton  
Representative Harriet Drummond

SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair  
Senator Mike Dunleavy, Vice Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Charlie Huggins  
Senator Berta Gardner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Representative Peggy Wilson

SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

PRESENTATION: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- HEARD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

## **WITNESS REGISTER**

DIANE BARRANS, Executive Director  
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented information about the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.

BRIAN RAE, Assistant Director  
Research and Policy Analysis  
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented information about the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[8:01:32 AM](#)

**CHAIR GARY STEVENS** called the joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Standing Committees to order at 8:01 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Stedman, Huggins, Gardner, Dunleavy and Chair Stevens, and Representatives Saddler, Seaton, Drummond, and Chair Gattis.

### **PRESENTATION: ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

[8:02:10 AM](#)

CHAIR STEVENS announced that the committee would be hearing about the outcomes of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Program.

DIANE BARRANS, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), thanked Chair Gattis and Chair Stevens for the opportunity to provide information about the APS Outcomes Report for 2013. She said the information represents just three semesters of data, but has interesting indicators. She introduced Brian Rae, the report's author.

[8:03:05 AM](#)

BRIAN RAE, Assistant Director, Research and Policy Analysis, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), emphasized the collaborative efforts between the University of Alaska System, DEED, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the

Commission. He thanked his colleagues at the partnering research agencies.

MR. RAE explained that the report is laid out similarly to last year's report.

REPRESENTATIVE GATTIS noted the arrival of Representative LeDoux.

MR. RAE reviewed the topics he would cover in the presentation. He began with the first topic: where APS-eligible graduates reside. He showed tables of residency based on school district. He noted that there are several regulations that protect student privacy, especially the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Some data for smaller districts must be suppressed in order to protect student privacy, such as eligibility data.

He related that 48 out of the 54 small districts graduated students that were eligible for the APS the first two years it was available. He said that graduates from 42 of those districts made use of the scholarship.

He reported that with 40 percent of the state's high school graduates, Anchorage has the highest number of APS-eligible and recipient students. Fairbanks is a distant second, followed by Mat-Su and Kenai.

[8:05:48 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked if the reason the percentages of scholarship recipients cannot be known in the smaller schools is because that would give away who received them.

MR. RAE answered yes. Under FERPA guidelines, education attainment and levels of performance are not reportable for small districts.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX inquired if it is a state or federal law.

MR. RAE replied that it is a federal regulation.

CHAIR STEVENS noted the arrival of Senator Stedman.

SENATOR GARDNER requested clarification if 48 of the smaller schools had students that were eligible for the APS.

MR. RAE answered that was correct.

SENATOR GARDNER related that she counted 27 districts in the Academic Year 2012 that had no eligible graduates.

MR. RAE clarified that the asterisk does not mean that there are no students that qualify; it means that those students cannot be reported.

SENATOR GARDNER asked if Chugach School District, which boasts of a 98 percent graduation rate, had some of the 13 students that graduated qualify for the APS.

MR. RAE answered that was correct.

[8:07:45 AM](#)

SENATOR STEDMAN recalled that last year there was talk of combining some of the remote schools' data in order to put some validity in the report. He noted that he represents some of the smaller districts and receives no useful information from the report. He asked for the status of that suggestion.

MR. RAE explained that report includes a breakdown by region, and small school information was aggregated by region.

REPRESENTATIVE DRUMMOND asked why Fairbanks was a distant second to Anchorage in terms of the number of graduates. She assumed the number of graduates and the number of eligible graduates is in proportion to the size of the school district.

MR. RAE related that Fairbanks is second in terms of the number of eligible graduates and third in terms of the number of graduates. He said it is not always the case that there is proportionality between the number of graduates and those eligible for the APS. Statewide, 27.2 percent of graduates do achieve APS eligibility.

[8:09:24 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGGINS asked if Haines is twice as eligible as everyone else at 65 percent.

MR. RAE said oftentimes school districts have wide ranges of students that have achieved APS eligibility. He could not say why Haines reported that way.

SENATOR HUGGINS stated that he is amazed at the difference and it is worth looking into.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX inquired how many students a school has to have in order to be able to report. She noted that Gateway School District has 13 graduates. She questioned why reporting one or two students as eligible for the APS would give away who it was.

MR. RAE explained a rule that states that a student cannot be easily identified by a person who has local knowledge; therefore a number that is five or greater can be reported. If the number of eligible students is less than five, the information would not be reported.

[8:11:48 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX returned to the subject of Alaska Gateway with 13 students and said it was wrong to assume that no students were eligible for the APS.

MR. RAE said that is correct; there could be anywhere from none to four students eligible.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX did not understand why they could not be reported.

MR. RAE stated that DEED must follow federal regulations.

CHAIR STEVENS said fewer than five is the suppression number.

MR. RAE replied yes.

CHAIR GATTIS noted the arrival of Representative Reinbold.

SENATOR STEDMAN spoke of the regional analysis listed on page four of the report, which does not show any consolidation of the village schools in Southeast Alaska. It only shows the consolidation of all schools in Southeast Alaska; however, the larger school data should not be combined with smaller school data. He noted the data does not provide the information he needs and he requested that village school data be consolidated in future reports.

He asked about the data regarding Mt. Edgecumbe High School which shows 18 percent eligible recipients. He pointed out that Mt. Edgecumbe is probably the top high school in the state. He questioned the low score.

MS. BARRANS responded that she could share numbers from schools with legislators if the numbers were sufficiently large enough

to share. The purpose of the APS Outcomes Report is to present broad information to the public.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if Senator Stedman was satisfied with that option.

SENATOR STEDMAN replied that he was. He emphasized that one of the discussion points since the inception of the APS has been the disadvantages that rural schools face against urban schools. He opined that it was not good public policy to withhold data related to small schools.

MS. BARRANS addressed Senator Stedman's question regarding Mt. Edgecumbe. She said the report presents the data as the department receives it. She suggested having a further discussion with administrators from Mt. Edgecumbe about the percentage of qualified students.

[8:16:39 AM](#)

MR. RAE pointed out that there were a very small number of school districts that dominate the percentage of graduates for districts with 70 percent. Also, there were eleven districts that had fewer than 10 graduates, which is why there is so much suppression in the data.

He reported that, statewide, 27.2 percent of last year's public high school graduates were eligible for the APS, a number that was down slightly from 29 percent the previous year. Some of the decline can be attributed to year-to-year fluctuation. However, there was an increase in curriculum requirements necessary to become eligible for the APS. The rigorous curriculum requirements are being phased in through 2015 in order to allow students time to adjust their course-taking patterns. He noted large differences between the districts regarding eligibility percentages. Nine of the suppressed districts had eligibility rates that were above 35 percent, and six of those districts had eligibility rates above 40 percent.

He presented data by regions in the state. He stated that the pattern of APS eligibility and usage is fairly similar to last year's report. He said he found this data to be interesting because there are such large differences in the numbers of graduates coming from the various districts and it is easier to make cross-region comparisons using percentages. The Interior region had the highest percentages of graduates academically eligible to receive an APS award at 30.4 percent. The Far North

Region had the lowest percentage of eligible graduates at 11.2 percent.

MR. RAE explained that school districts within the regions did differ. For example, Nome, in the Far North Region had an eligibility rate that was 6 percentage points above the statewide average. However, when the percentage of students eligible for the award was considered, both the Far North and the Interior Regions had the highest usage rates for the awards. Approximately, one half of the eligible students from these two regions did take advantage of the APS.

SENATOR DUNLEAVY asked if middle school courses in smaller schools are being used in the formula to determine eligibility.

MR. RAE replied that he was not aware of any.

MS. BARRANS said that provision did not apply during the first two years APS was in place. She explained that last year the legislature passed a law that allowed DEED, through regulation, to promulgate rules around which a high school level course taken in middle school could be transcribed as satisfying the APS curriculum. This provision will apply for the first time to the graduates in 2013.

SENATOR DUNLEAVY summarized that it was a high school course taken by middle school students.

MS. BARRANS agreed.

[8:20:34 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked if all schools are operating on an even playing field. She inquired how students qualify for the APS, by standardized test or by grades.

MS. BARRANS said the requirements to qualify have three components which are set in regulation. The student must have completed certain curricular requirements, have a certain grade point average, and have a certain score on the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys Assessment. If one of those three components is missing they do not qualify.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX gave an example of a student qualifying in one region, but not in another.

MS. BARRANS explained that all students also have to achieve a level of achievement on nationally normed tests, regardless if there is a variation in bell curves between regions.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX insisted that was only one of three qualifications. She continued to distinguish between a harder school district versus a lower level district.

MS. BARRANS explained that a student would not qualify for the scholarship with a lower than 2.5 grade point average.

MR. RAE clarified that there are three different scores used to determine eligibility.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX reiterated her concern.

MR. RAE explained that the award level is based on the lowest score of the three.

[8:24:32 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX restated that if the school districts are not on the same level the comparison is not equal.

MR. RAE maintained that the standardized test scores would equalize that.

MS. BARRANS added that the state does not receive the test scores; the schools determine which students are eligible.

CHAIR GATTIS asked if all school districts offer the necessary classes in order to qualify for the scholarship and if on-line or correspondence courses are acceptable.

MS. BARRANS noted that Commissioner Hanley was available to answer questions later on in the presentation.

CHAIR STEVENS requested that Chair Gattis hold her question until later.

[8:27:14 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE REINBOLD asked for clarification regarding the 11 percent of graduates from the Southeast School District.

MR. RAE explained that data is an attempt to show the magnitude of the scale of different regions.

CHAIR STEVENS said the numbers total 100 percent.

MR. RAE said "hopefully." He continued to discuss exhibit 3, the AY 12 public school graduates, eligibility, and recipients by ethnicity and gender. There are large differences in eligibility rates by ethnicity. On average, 27.2 of all graduates are eligible for the APS, and 35 percent of Caucasian graduates were eligible, and 10.5 percent of Alaska Native and American Indian graduates. Once a student becomes APS eligible, the usage rates are much more similar across ethnic groups with one in three graduates taking advantage of the scholarship.

He reported that when reviewing eligibility and usages by gender, female graduates are somewhat more likely to be eligible to receive the APS. The gender differences seem to disappear when considering usage.

REPRESENTATIVE DRUMMOND wondered about the percent of Alaska Native and American Indian eligible for the APS who had participated in the ANSEP program.

[8:29:55 AM](#)

MR. RAE said he would love to be able to research that issue.

REPRESENTATIVE DRUMMOND thought it would be difficult to do so due to the small numbers.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked if students can use this scholarship for out-of-state colleges.

MR. RAE said the requirements say it is for in-state schools only.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX surmised that one of the reasons students who are eligible don't use the scholarship is because they plan to attend school in another state.

MR. RAE said that was correct.

SENATOR DUNLEAVY inquired which other institutions accept APS scholarships.

MR. RAE referred to an appendix in the report that provides a list of all schools that accept the scholarship.

MS. BARRANS commented that there is an extensive list.

SENATOR DUNLEAVY asked if Alaska Pacific University and Wayland Baptist University are on the list. He noted they are private schools. He asked if there could be sectarian schools, as well.

MS. BARRANS answered yes.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX understood that public money was not supposed to go into religious or private education. She did not understand why APS was constitutional.

[8:32:42 AM](#)

MS. BARRANS replied that the history of financial aid in Alaska is that students can take their financial aid to any school of their choice as long as the school is accredited. That has not been challenged in court.

MR. RAE discussed exhibit 4 that shows award levels for AY 12 and AY 11, with an increase in the usage of the APS by eligible students by all award levels. He attributed this to an increased awareness of the scholarship and a longer planning time.

CHAIR STEVENS noted the count in level two only differs by one student.

MR. RAE responded that there was an increase in the number of eligible level two recipients.

He continued with exhibit 20 - a survey of respondents' knowledge about the APS and their eligibility status. He related that in the first year, only 55 percent of graduates reported being aware of their APS eligibility. For the most recent graduating class, 70 percent were aware. He compared data between the two groups.

[8:37:02 AM](#)

He said next two exhibits show in-state and out-of-state attendance patterns by award level in AY 11 and AY 12. He shared conclusions of that data as it relates to all U.S. graduates and to Alaska graduates. He detailed changes between APS eligible graduates in Alaska during the two years.

[8:39:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked if they were going to track post-secondary completion rates.

MR. RAE said yes. He discussed exhibit 7 - APS recipients in the fall following graduation by award level and expected family

contribution (EFC). He noted that financial need is not a factor in determining eligibility in these students. For data purposes, students were broken down into four quartiles based on EFC. He reported that students eligible for the top award level and in the higher income bracket were more likely to use their scholarship in AY 12 compared to AY 11.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER requested clarification of the chart.

MR. RAE explained the categories on the chart.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked about a category.

MR. RAE clarified the data.

CHAIR STEVENS asked for an explanation of 93 percent.

MR. RAE explained the highest quartile.

MS. BARRANS noted it was a head count number, not a percent.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked about income numbers.

MR. RAE said those numbers are included in the report itself, but not in the chart.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER concluded that the highest quartile represents the wealthiest families.

MR. RAE said correct.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for the conclusion the committee should draw from the chart.

MR. RAE summarized the data on the chart. He related that more students fell into eligibility level one this year than last year. In the third quartile, the family is expected to contribute a greater amount toward the student's education, yet there was an increase in the most recent year. Both these groups show the largest gains from year to year.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER concluded that more students who are eligible for the top award are using it and attending in Alaska.

MR. RAE said that was correct. In order to receive the APS the student must attend in Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER stated that the program is working well to encourage students to attend college in Alaska.

MR. RAE said the evidence points to that.

8:45:43 AM

He explained exhibit 8 - APS recipients and postsecondary attendance by institution. He said that overwhelmingly - 99 percent - were attending one of the University of Alaska schools.

CHAIR STEVENS noted that attendance at the other universities is quite small.

MR. RAE said that was correct. He turned to exhibit 9 - how much in APS funds was awarded and for what types of enrollment. The majority of APS recipients are enrolling in bachelor's degree programs; nearly 88 percent.

He explained exhibit 10 shows that APS recipients are enrolled on a full-time basis. He pointed out that the only other factor besides the eligibility level, that affects the amount of the award, is the student's enrollment status. Part time students see a 50 percent reduction in their maximum scholarship amount.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked if the Y axis is dollars.

MR. RAE answered yes. He continued to explain that full time recipients of the APS were awarded \$5.3 million total for both years.

He noted that the use of the scholarship in any quarter counts against the 8 semesters of eligibility. There is a very strong incentive for a student to attend full time.

8:48:33 AM

He explained exhibit 13 - public high school graduates pursuing postsecondary degree/certificate at UA within one year of graduation. He noted that there was only preliminary information on students' educational attainment and none on students' future workforce success.

He addressed information about educational attainment of APS students, of which there is very little data available to date. He listed the advantages of students who pursue post-secondary education immediately upon graduation from high school.

CHAIR STEVENS stated it was too early to draw conclusions, but asked how many years of data would be needed in order to see the impact of the APS.

MR. RAE replied that the earliest timeframe would be four years after the first year's graduating class. That may have to be extended to six years for comparison with non-APS students.

SENATOR GARDNER asked if the shift from four to five or more years in order to obtain a college degree is nationwide. She inquired what factors may be influencing that trend.

MR. RAE said it does appear to be a nationwide trend. Many reporting metrics now consider graduation rates within six years to be a reporting mark.

CHAIR STEVENS wondered if it was due to lack of jobs in the market.

MS. BARRANS agreed it was nationwide, but added that there were differences between the rates at which students complete college, depending on type of school. Highly selective schools typically have on-time completion rates; community colleges have longer completion rates. More students are taking longer due to lack of academic preparation or for economic reasons.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER read that the APS was amended to include vocational schools. He wondered what conclusions could be drawn from that change. He noted that vocational certificate seekers were 1.6 percent of APS recipients versus 3 percent of all graduates.

MR. RAE asked Representative Saddler about his calculations.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER clarified that he was looking at the bottom row on the far right of the chart. He said the conclusion he has drawn is that those who got the APS scholarship sought certificates less than the general population of graduates.

MR. RAE responded that he was going to say the same thing in reverse: APS recipients are more likely to pursue a bachelor degree and less likely to pursue a vocational certificate or an Associate's Degree than the general population of student graduates.

MR. RAE recapped exhibit 13 - APS students are more likely to finish a degree and require less remediation if they start college earlier.

[8:57:42 AM](#)

He turned to exhibit 12 (out of order), which contains information about which students required preparatory courses at the start of post-secondary education. Of 3,284 first time freshmen at UA, 892 received APS awards. Students ineligible for the APS were nearly three times more likely to take a preparatory class than were APS recipients.

CHAIR STEVENS asked where that information could be found.

MR. RAE explained where it was on exhibit 12. He concluded that the numbers are preliminary, but the average APS eligible student would have earned 13.2 credit hours applicable to a degree at the end of fall semester, whereas, the ineligible student would have earned only 8.5 hours.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked what this information is supposed to show.

MR. RAE commented that the data shows that an APS student has achieved a high academic level and will perform better in college. It shows that incentivizing students to attend early leads to better success in college.

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked if they are attending early due to the APS scholarship.

MR. RAE commented that when comparing the AY 11 and the AY 12 class, it shows that some aspects of APS come into play, such as attending college in state.

MS. BARRANS said that over time, more trends would become apparent. She added that, ideally, there would be more students qualifying for APS. She wished to see more data about APS students and non-APS students in order to reach solid conclusions about the impact of the program.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER opined that the slide shows that the APS is having its intended effect.

[9:04:12 AM](#)

MR. RAE turned to exhibit 14 - postsecondary attendance patterns for AY 11 APS eligible graduates. He shared data regarding that

group, noting the pattern of attendance. Eighty percent of students were attending post-secondary education somewhere.

MR. RAE explained exhibit 15 - postsecondary attendance patterns for AY 11 non-APS eligible graduates. He related information about attendance. Sixty-seven percent were not attending post-secondary education.

He discussed exhibits 16 and 17 - AY 11 public school graduates receiving a fall 2011 APS, and how many continued to receive the scholarship in subsequent semesters. Over 90 percent in that category returned to continue with their education using the APS.

[9:08:25 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked what "returned" means.

MR. RAE clarified which students the data was referring to.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER suggested different wording such as "utilized" the scholarship.

MR. RAE said the students were "receiving the payment."

MS. BARRANS added that the data shows persistence rates.

MR. RAE said the Interior Region had the highest usage rate of any region. Seventy-five percent of those students who attended in the fall of 2011, continued to receive the award in the fall of 2012.

MS. BARRANS noted students may be enrolled in college, but not receiving the award if they failed to meet the requirements to continue to receive the award.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if the limit on semesters counts against them in that case.

MS. BARRANS answered no.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked about the eligibility requirements of continuing to receive the scholarship once a student is enrolled in college.

MR. RAE replied that he would address that later in the presentation.

[9:11:10 AM](#)

MR. RAE said the student's award level is the best predictor of success. He noted that 80 percent of award level one recipients in the fall of 2011 were still receiving the award the following fall. For levels two and three, the percentage drops to 60 percent.

He discussed exhibit 18 - AY 11 public school graduates meeting "continuing eligibility requirements" (CER). The first certification of a student's continuing eligibility occurs after the student has received two semesters or three terms of APS awards. Full time students must have earned at least 24 semester credit hours and maintained a GPA of 2.0 or higher. He said the Interior Region had the highest percentage of students meeting the CER at 90 percent. The Southwest region had the lowest number of students not meeting CER at 30 percent.

He noted that 93 percent of level-one students met the CER and 78 percent and 79 percent of levels-two and three did so.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked about eligibility as it relates to the eight semesters.

MS. BARRANS said the 8-semester clock does not continue to run if a student is ineligible, but the 6-year clock does.

MR. RAE showed exhibit 19 - persistence of AY 11 APS recipient high school graduates attending UA in the fall immediately following graduation. Nearly 83 percent of APS recipients return to school the following year.

MR. RAE discussed exhibit 22 - the percentage of AY 11 APS eligible graduates receiving an award in the fall 2012 and working at any time during fiscal year, by award level. He explained what each bar means on the graph. He concluded that it is too soon to determine how the APS affects future earnings.

[9:16:38 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX asked if the data includes summer employment.

MR. RAE answered that it includes any wages, including summer.

He talked about exhibit 23 - percentage of AY 11 APS eligible graduates receiving an award in the fall of 2012 and working at any time during fiscal year, by award amounts. He said similar patterns emerged.

CHAIR STEVENS said he did not know what conclusions were being drawn.

[9:18:25 AM](#)

MR. RAE said the interest in this baseline wage data is in the future, and in the relationship of high academics to work.

CHAIR STEVENS suggested working is good for everyone.

SENATOR GARDNER found it interesting that the two extremes start out together and then diverge.

MS. BARRANS said it is important to see what impacts success in post-secondary education.

SENATOR GARDNER noted the data is from UA and not many students are going to private institutions. She wondered about students attending private schools and the problems related to them, as seen in the Lower 48.

MR. RAE suggested that Alaska's private schools do not fit the description of those down south.

SENATOR GARDNER reiterated that she would like to see the data at some point for students that attend non-UA schools.

MR. RAE explained the conclusions of the previous slides. The first couple of slides showed that students at different award levels showed slightly different employment patterns.

He related that exhibit 24 is the percentage of AY 11 APS eligible graduates receiving an award in the fall of 2012 and working in four quarters during the fiscal year, by award amounts. Between 22 percent and 30 percent of students worked in their junior year in high school. Those who received lower awards were more likely than their peers to have worked in all four quarters.

[9:23:16 AM](#)

He explained exhibit 25 - average earnings of AY 11 APS eligible graduates receiving an award in the fall of 2012 and working in four quarters during the fiscal year, by award amounts. He said the students with the highest awards have the lowest wage income in college. He concluded that most students focus more on education than work.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if there is a connection between hours worked and wages.

MR. RAE commented that an assumption could be made that the students were working entry level jobs.

[9:25:31 AM](#)

CHAIR STEVENS thanked the presenters.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER wondered what was going on in other states in this area.

MR. RAE replied that he has compared Alaska data to Wyoming's. Alaska's Department of Labor captures more data than Wyoming does.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked if Mr. Rae had come to any conclusions.

MR. RAE answered that he was struck by the difference in the populations in AY 11 and AY 12 due to having an increased awareness and more time to consider options related to post-secondary choices for those in AY 12.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if there were any future legislative issues that need to be discussed.

MS. BARRANS answered no. She explained that the Commission is working on a project with DEED, DOL, and UA to develop a statewide longitudinal data system regarding student-level information. She said she hopes the impact of the APS Program will go beyond the impact of financial aid and have effects on the aspirations and preparation of the entire student population. She said the project is three years out from implementation. Currently, the discussion is how to appropriately and securely collect data and make it available to practitioners and districts, as well as to the public.

[9:29:51 AM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Stevens adjourned the Joint House Education Standing Committee and Senate Education Standing Committee at 9:29 p.m.