

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development

Office of the Commissioner

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Dear Superintendent:

The high school Class of 2011 will be the first students eligible to receive the new Alaska Performance Scholarships. These documents summarize the enabling statute and regulations. They answer questions we anticipate families and educators might have. Please share the documents with educators, parents and students.

Alaska Performance Scholarships provide financial incentives for students to excel at a rigorous high school curriculum and to graduate prepared to do well in their postsecondary education and training in Alaska.

The scholarships are an invitation to excellence. Students will be motivated to take a more rigorous curriculum and work harder. Students will realize that their performance in high school will help them achieve their career goals. Students who achieve scholarship eligibility will be better prepared to enter and complete postsecondary education. And if they attend postsecondary institutions in Alaska, they will be more likely to join the Alaska workforce.

Parents -- who know the costs of postsecondary education -- will be motivated to monitor their students' education. They will want to be sure their children are taking the courses they need for eligibility. They will want to help their students earn good grades.

Educators will be motivated to offer, or arrange access to, the rigorous curricula needed for student eligibility.

Alaska Performance Scholarships do not resolve every challenge facing our schools. But the scholarships can play a role in motivating students and families to work toward academic achievement. That is a goal all of us can share.

Sincerely,



Larry LeDoux
Commissioner