



Introducing the Alaska Performance Scholarship

The Alaska Performance Scholarship provides financial incentives for students to take a rigorous high school curriculum that prepares them for college and career training.

The goals are to:

- improve students' performance in high school and increase graduation rates;
- improve students' scores on college entrance exams -- the basis for some national scholarships;
- improve students' preparation for college-level work, reduce remediation in college, and provide for timely completion of higher-education degrees;
- bolster the rigor of high schools' curricula;
- boost students' opportunities for job training;
- increase parents' involvement in their children's education; and
- develop Alaska's workforce by retaining our students in-state for their postsecondary education.

Requirements

Alaska Performance Scholarship recipients will be required to complete a rigorous course of study in high school, have good grades, and score well on an assessment. Students who meet the eligibility requirements will be entitled to a scholarship. Alaska's postsecondary institutions will remain free to determine their admissions policies.

The scholarship's rigorous course requirements are central to the program's value. Students are much more likely to do well in college if they have taken four years of English and at least three years of math, social studies and science in high school.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship will begin with students in the high school Class of 2011, who will enter colleges or technical schools in the fall of 2011.

The course requirements are:

Four years of mathematics; four years of language arts; four years of science; and four years of social studies, one year of which may include a foreign language, an Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural heritage; **OR**

Three years of mathematics; four years of language arts; three years of science; four years of social studies; and two years of a foreign language or an Alaska Native language.

Important note: Members of the Class of 2011 will be required to have at least 3 credits in science, or 3 credits in math, or 2.5 credits in science AND math. In addition, Class of 2011 scholarship recipients must have 4 credits in language arts; 3 credits in social studies, including 0.5 credit in Alaska history; and 1 credit in health/physical education.

Categories of scholarships

First Level (honors scholarship): High school GPA of 3.5 or higher; an ACT score of 25 or higher, or an SAT score of 1680 or higher, or a WorkKeys score of 5 or higher; for an award of \$4,755 per year for up to eight semesters.

Second Level (achievement scholarship): High school GPA of 3.0 to 3.49; an ACT score of 23 or higher, or an SAT score of 1560 or higher, or a WorkKeys score of 5 or higher; for an award of \$3,566 per year for up to eight semesters.

Third Level (opportunity scholarship): High school GPA of 2.5 to 2.99; an ACT score of 21 or higher, or an SAT score of 1450 or higher, or a WorkKeys score of 5 or higher; for an award of \$2,378 per year academic year for up to eight semesters.

Important note: WorkKeys assessments will establish eligibility only for career and technical programs resulting in a certificate. The WorkKeys assessments are in applied math, reading for information, and locating information.

Use of the scholarships

The scholarships may be used for tuition and other costs of attendance. Students will be allowed to use the Alaska Performance Scholarship to pay for unpaid costs only after applying all other scholarships and grants. Alaska Performance Scholarship funds will be disbursed through the certifying education institutions. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for any other grants and scholarships they may qualify for.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible students must be Alaska residents as defined in Alaska Statute 01.10.055. Home school and private school students are eligible. GED recipients are not eligible.

Scholarship recipients will have six years from high school to use the scholarship unless an extension has been granted. They must maintain a minimum postsecondary GPA to remain eligible. Part-time postsecondary students will receive an award proportionate to their part-time status. Recipients will be eligible to continue to receive scholarships during graduate school if they complete their four-year degree, are within six years of their initial eligibility, and have not fully used their permitted eight semesters of support from the program.

Agency Responsibilities

High schools, which hold students' transcripts, will certify students' eligibility. The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development will determine by regulation the allowable assessments, assessment scores, curriculum, pathways for home-schooled students, and appeals processes. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education will provide financial accountability, disburse the funds to institutions, and establish in regulation criteria for continuing eligibility and for regaining eligibility. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development will adopt regulations to set the criteria by which career and technical school programs are eligible to participate in the program.

For ongoing information

See http://akadvantage.alaska.gov/Grants_and_Scholarships/Alaska_Scholarship.aspx.

Further questions

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