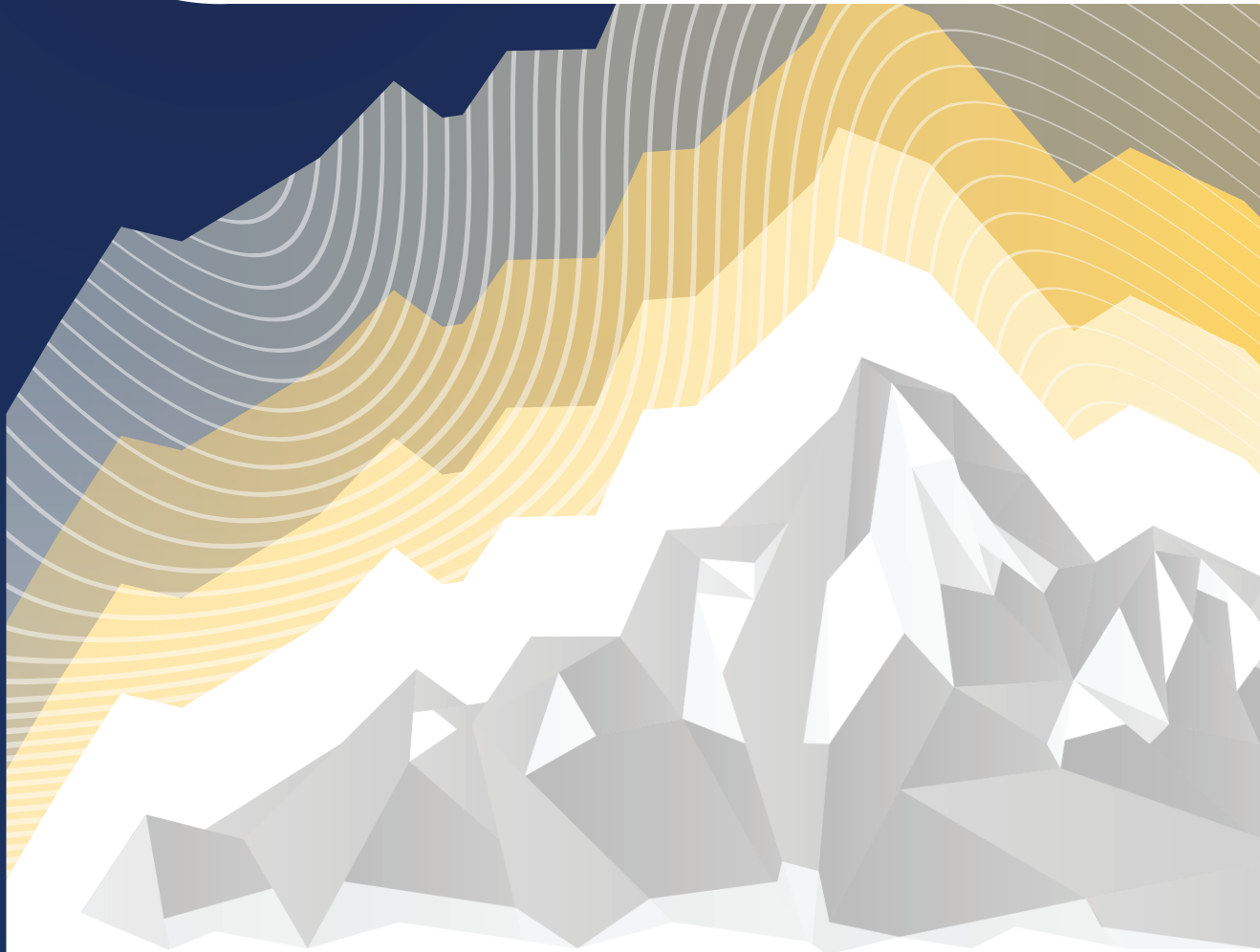




ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Outcomes Report

2022



APS: FALL 2011 – 2021

RESPECTFULLY PROVIDED BY:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
University of Alaska



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2011, the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) has rewarded Alaska students who excel in high school with over \$98 million in scholarships to help cover the cost of in-state postsecondary education. The APS has four primary objectives:

1. Offer incentive for Alaska students to excel in high school
2. Prepare Alaska students for college or career training
3. Help Alaska students succeed in college
4. Keep skilled, high-achieving graduates in Alaska



High School Outcomes

Eligibility
36%

Award Use
24%

APS as a Motivator
for Better Grades
69%

The class of 2021 achieved high APS eligibility rates, continuing the trend set by the graduates from the previous year. More than one-third of the class of 2021 achieved eligibility, at 36% compared to 37% for the class of 2020. These significantly higher rates compared to prior years are likely due to the suspension of standardized testing requirements in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Prior to this change in eligibility criteria, APS eligibility rates had declined steadily since 2014, reaching a low of 23% in 2019.

A lower percentage of the class of 2021 APS-eligible students used the award: 24% compared to 33% of eligible students in the class of 2019, and a high of 39% in 2016. In the APS-eligible student survey, 9% said uncertainty surrounding the pandemic caused them to delay their college start date.

In the class of 2021 APS-eligible student survey, **69% said APS made them more likely to achieve better grades** in high school, and 62% said it made them more likely to prepare for or take placement exams (SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys).

Postsecondary Outcomes

Preparedness
93%

Persistence
82%

Completions
62%

Of first-time APS recipients enrolling at a University of Alaska (UA) program this fall, **93% were prepared to take college-level courses**, compared to 72% of other first-time students.

Of APS recipients entering UA in fall 2019, **82% persisted into their second year**, compared to 57% of other students.

Of first-time, full-time APS recipients beginning their enrollment in fall 2015, **62% completed an undergraduate degree, certificate, or occupational endorsement within six years**, compared to 29% of non-recipients.

Alaska Residency and Workforce Outcomes

APS Influence
on In-State
Attendance
70%

Ten years after their high school graduation, **former APS recipients from the class of 2011 have higher rates of Alaska residency and participation in the Alaska workforce** compared to APS-eligible students who did not use the scholarship.

Of APS-eligible students surveyed from the class of 2021 who are currently enrolled in postsecondary education, **70% said the APS influenced their decision to attend an in-state school.**

APS ELIGIBILITY DEFINITIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The following definitions are used throughout this report:

- Eligible**
 Students who have met APS requirements in high school and are eligible for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) award or collegiate level award (the latter can also be used for CTE education).
- Ineligible**
 Alaska high school graduates who did not meet APS requirements in high school.
- Recipient**
 Students who have used the APS award in at least one term.
- Non-recipient**
 Students who have not used APS for the reported term. This category includes students who were ineligible for the APS as well as APS-eligible students who are not using the award.

EXHIBIT 1

APS Eligibility Requirements

- Student eligibility and award levels are based on the following GPA, standardized testing, and high school curriculum requirements.
- Standardized testing requirements were waived for the high school graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 due to impacts of the pandemic.
- Visit [APS.Alaska.gov](https://aps.alaska.gov) for more information or to download eligibility checklists.

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Award Amount	UP TO \$4,755 PER YR	UP TO \$3,566 PER YR	UP TO \$2,378 PER YR
Required GPA	3.5 or greater	3.0 or greater	2.5 or greater
Required Testing ¹ <i>ACT/SAT used for degree or certificate</i> ²	ACT 25 · SAT 1210	ACT 23 · SAT 1130	ACT 21 · SAT 1060
	Standardized testing requirements were waived for high school class of 2020 & 2021 due to impacts of the pandemic.		
WorkKeys used for certificate only	WorkKeys 13	WorkKeys 13	WorkKeys 13
	A combination score of 13 or higher with no score below 4 is required in Applied Math, Locating Information, & Reading for Information		
Required High School Curriculum <i>Students can choose either curriculum option.</i>	Math & Science Science — 4 credits Math — 4 credits Social Studies — 4 credits Language Arts — 4 credits	OR	Social Studies & Language Arts Science — 3 credits Math — 3 credits Social Studies — 4 credits Language Arts — 4 credits World Language — 2 credits ³

NOTES:

1 · These requirements have been updated as of fall 2016. Students who took the SAT prior to March 2016 can qualify for APS on the previous 2400 scale (Level 1: 1680, Level 2: 1560, Level 3: 1450).

2 · "Certificate" means a career & technical education certificate & does not include associate degrees.

3 · World Language courses include Alaska Native Language and American Sign Language

APS AWARDS

Since program inception in 2011, 26,713 public high school graduates have earned eligibility for the scholarship, representing approximately 30% of all public high school graduates in Alaska. A total of 11,383 high school graduates have used the APS award, representing 13% of all graduates and 43% of all eligible students.

In FY2021, 2,798 students used the APS scholarship with over \$9.3 million awarded. Based on data through October 2021, 2,399 students have used the scholarship in FY2022 with an anticipated \$9.4 million awarded (Exhibit 2).¹ The number of recipients and total dollars awarded have declined since peaking in FY2017. Between FY2017 and FY2021, the number of recipients declined by 18% and the amount awarded declined by 17%.

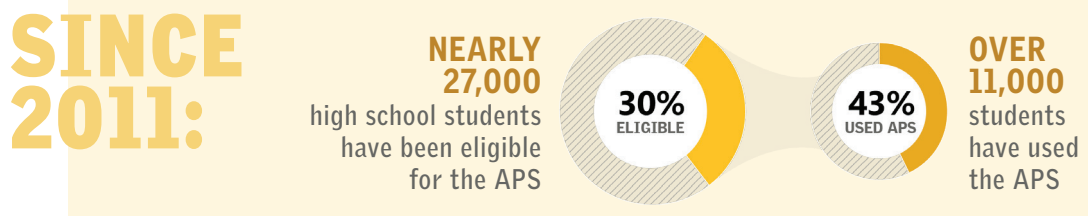


EXHIBIT 2

APS Total Dollars Awarded & Recipients, FY2012-2022

Data Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McKinley Research Group calculations.

4 · Total dollars awarded for FY2022 were estimated based on twice the fall disbursed amount and number of APS recipients as of October 2021.

Year	Total Dollars Awarded	Recipients Each Award Year
2012	\$2,982,449	929
2013	\$5,653,223	1,717
2014	\$7,823,335	2,330
2015	\$10,046,899	2,976
2016	\$11,055,641	3,358
2017	\$11,285,711	3,423
2018	\$11,079,588	3,358
2019	\$10,156,663	3,089
2020	\$9,371,849	2,835
2021	\$9,334,253	2,798
2022⁴	\$9,370,820	2,399
TOTAL	\$98,160,430	--

APS-ELIGIBLE GRADUATES & RECIPIENTS

Standardized testing requirements for APS eligibility were waived for a second consecutive year due to test cancellations and other factors related to the pandemic. Eliminating this requirement contributed to an increase in eligibility rates for the high school graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. More than one-third (36%) of public high school graduates in the class of 2021 were eligible for the APS (Exhibit 3). Prior to the 2020 change in eligibility criteria, APS eligibility rates had declined steadily since 2014, reaching a low of 23% in 2019.

The suspension of standardized testing requirements also likely contributed to the significantly higher percentage of eligible students achieving the Level 1 award (Exhibit 4). In previous years, about 40% of eligible students achieved Level 1 eligibility, compared to 60% of 2020 and 59% of 2021 high school graduates. No 2020 or 2021 graduates were eligible for only the CTE award due to the suspension of testing requirements. All regions except the Far North had consistent eligibility rates compared to the prior year (Exhibit 6).

A lower percentage of eligible students in the class of 2021 used the APS award than pre-pandemic graduating classes (Exhibit 5). Of APS-eligible graduates in the class of 2021, 24% enrolled at a qualifying Alaska postsecondary institution. Slightly lower numbers of students used the award as well: 697 in 2021 compared to 707 in 2020, and an average of 801 over the history of the scholarship. Exhibits 5, 7, and 8 refer to students using the award the fall following their high school graduation.

EXHIBIT 3

Percent of Public High School Graduates Eligible for APS by Graduating Class, 2011-2021

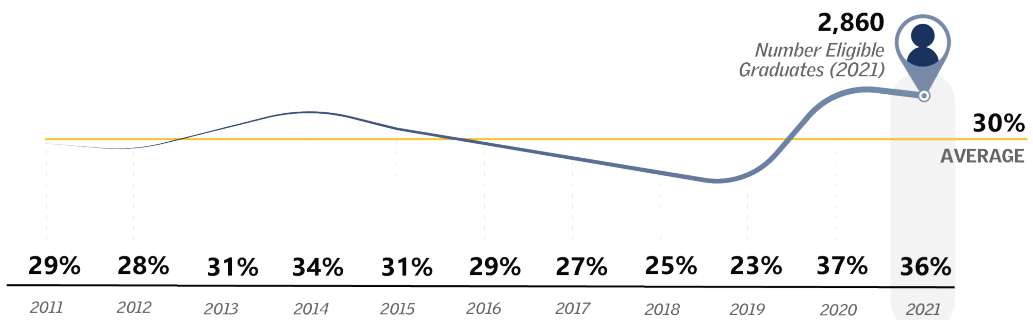
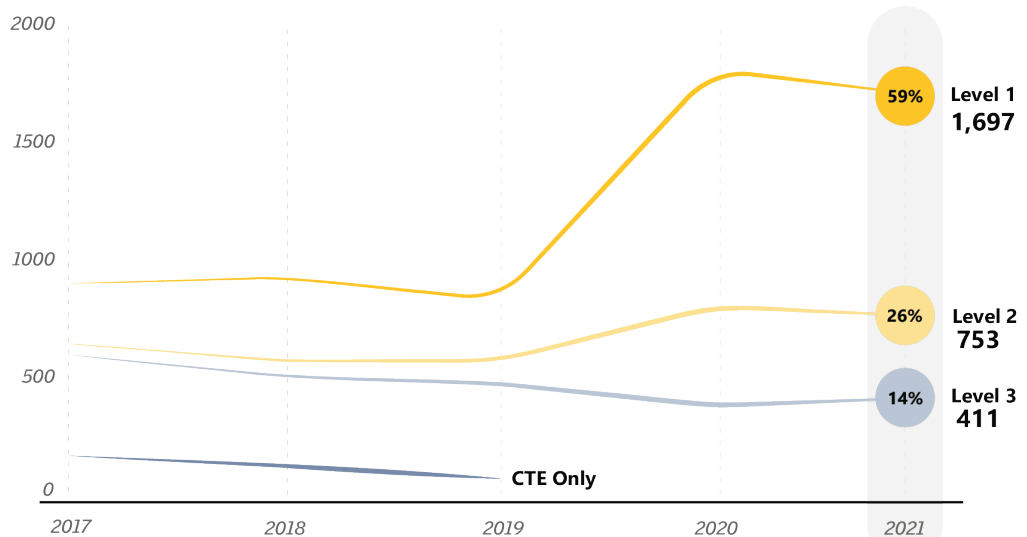


EXHIBIT 4

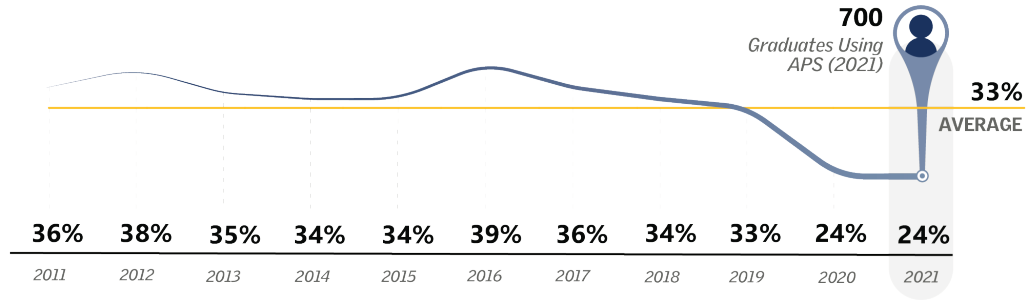
Public High School APS Recipients by Eligibility Level, 2017-2021



Data Source: ACPE Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McKinley Research Group calculations.

EXHIBIT 5

Percent of Public APS-Eligible Graduates Using APS the Fall After High School Graduation, 2011-2021



Several factors may contribute to declining use of APS, including students deferring enrollment due to pandemic-related factors. In the 2021 APS-eligible student survey, 9% said uncertainty surrounding the pandemic caused them to delay their college start date, compared to 15% of 2020 APS-eligible students survey in the fall of 2020. Previous surveys point to declining confidence in the UA System and uncertainty of APS funding as additional factors possibly affecting use of APS. Other factors that may play a role are declining value of the award relative to costs, declining competitiveness of award amounts, and late timing of award notification.⁵

Among class of 2021 public high school students, the Southeast region had the highest proportion of APS-eligible students (42%), while the Far North had the lowest, declining from 24% to 15% from the previous year (Exhibit 6). The percentage of recipients using the APS in the fall increased in two regions compared to the previous year, with usage in the Far North region increasing from 11% to 22% of eligible students, and the Interior region increasing from 32% to 35% between 2020 and 2021. The Interior region had the highest proportion of eligible students using the scholarship (35%) (Exhibit 7).

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DECLINING USE OF APS:

- 1 Delayed enrollment due to the pandemic
- 2 Declining confidence in the UA System
- 3 Uncertainty of APS funding
- 4 Declining value of the award relative to costs
- 5 Declining competitiveness of award amounts
- 6 Late timing of award notification

Data Source: ACPE Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McKinley Research Group calculations.

⁵ McKinley Research Group. Alaska Performance Scholarship: Program Review and Recommendations. January 2021.

EXHIBIT 6

Public High School Graduate
APS Eligibility Rates by
Region, 2018-2021

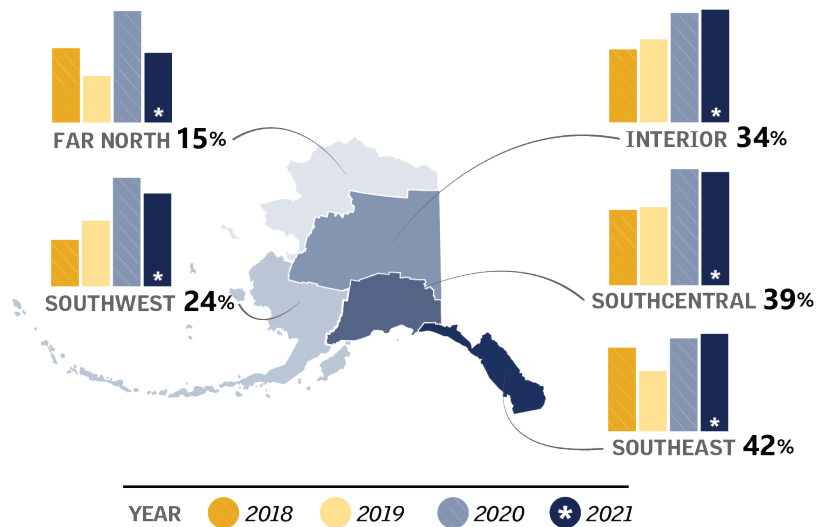
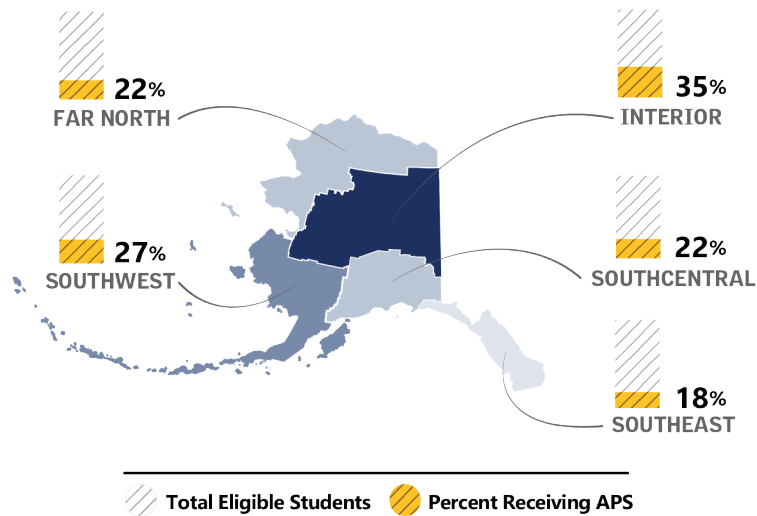


EXHIBIT 7

Percent of APS-Eligible
Students Receiving APS
Fall Following Graduation
by Region, 2021



Alaska Native/American Indian students are significantly less likely to be eligible for APS than Asian and white students. Alaska Native/American Indian students represent 20% of all graduates but 10% of APS eligible students. Conversely, white students are overrepresented, with 61% earning eligibility while representing 51% of the graduating class (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 9 illustrates the disparity between the percentage of the 2021 public graduating class and percentage of APS-eligible graduates by race/ethnicity. Alaska Native/American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students are underrepresented by 49%. At the other extreme, Asian students are overrepresented by 33% and white students by 20%.

Data Source: ACPE Alaska Student
Aid Portal data and McKinley
Research Group calculations.

EXHIBIT 8

Class of 2021 Public High School Graduates, APS-eligible Graduates, & Recipients, by Race/Ethnicity

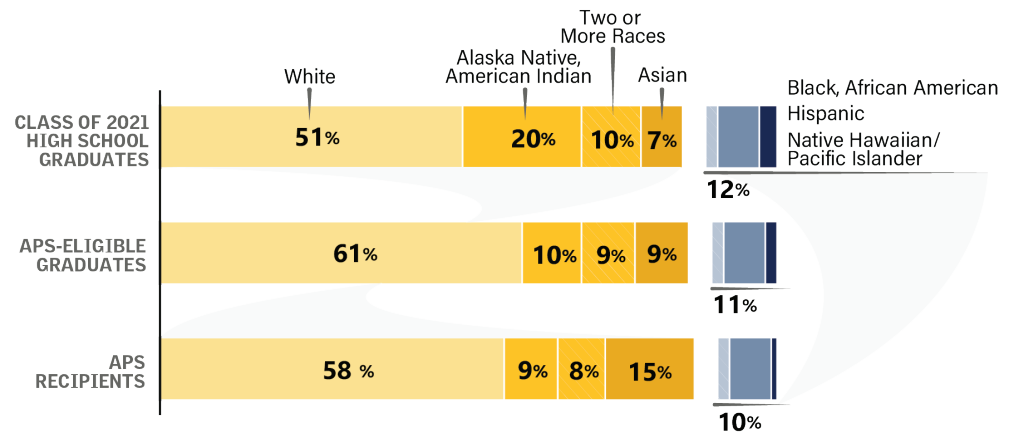
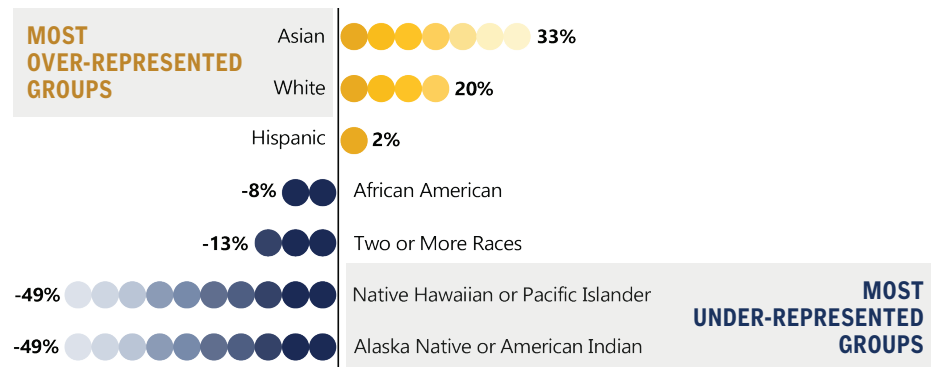


EXHIBIT 9

Class of 2021 Percentage Difference Between APS-Eligible Graduates and Total Graduates by Race/Ethnicity.

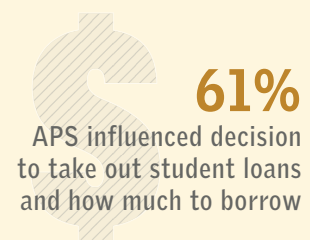
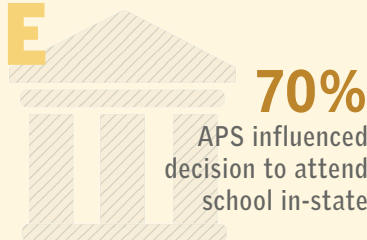


APS-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS (FALL 2021 SURVEY)

APS-eligible graduates from the class of 2021 were surveyed in fall 2021 to understand how the program may have impacted their high school experience, their enrollment in college or career training, and impacts of the pandemic (Exhibit 10-13).

Of respondents, 69% reported the availability of APS made them more likely to achieve better grades in high school. Despite standardized testing requirements being waived for a second year in a row due to the pandemic, 62% said it made them more likely to take placement exams (Exhibit 10). Among students currently enrolled in postsecondary education, 70% said the APS influenced their decision to attend an in-state school, and 61% said the program influenced their decision on whether to take out student loans or how much to borrow (Exhibit 11).

INFLUENCE OF APS:



Data Source: ACPE Alaska Student Aid Portal data, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and McKinley Research Group calculations.

EXHIBIT 10

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"Did the availability of APS make you more likely to do any of the following in high school?"

APS INFLUENCE

- **TOTAL (More Likely)**
- ▨ **Somewhat More Likely**
- ▨ **Much More Likely**
- ▨ **No Affect**

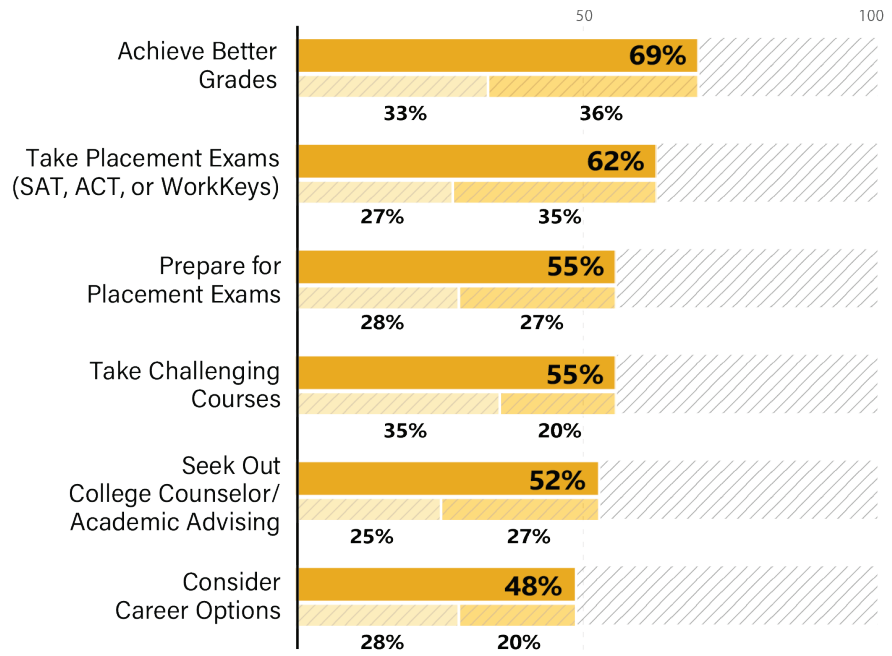


EXHIBIT 11

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"How much of an influence was the APS in the following decisions?"

APS INFLUENCE

- **TOTAL Influence**
- ▨ **Minor Influence**
- ▨ **Major Influence**
- ▨ **No Impact**

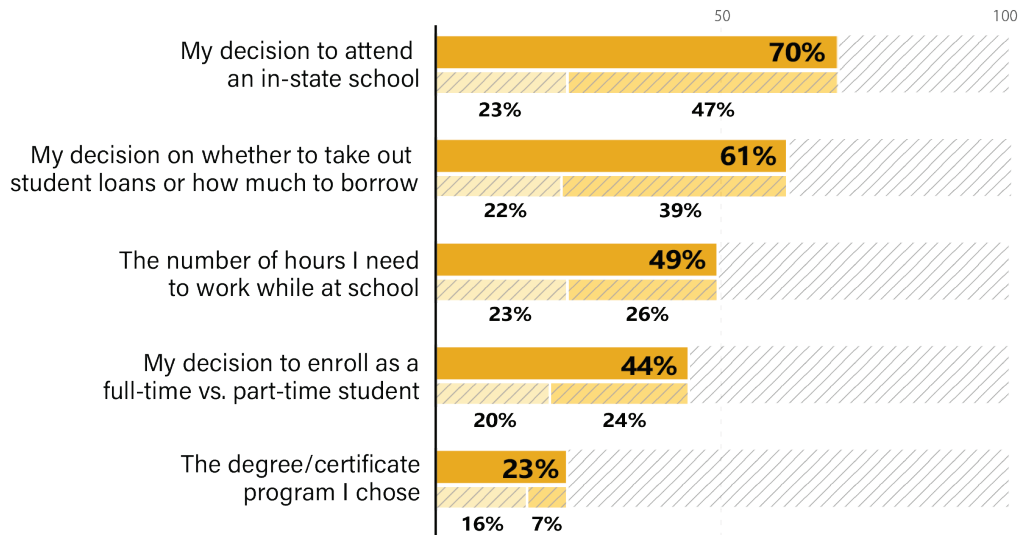
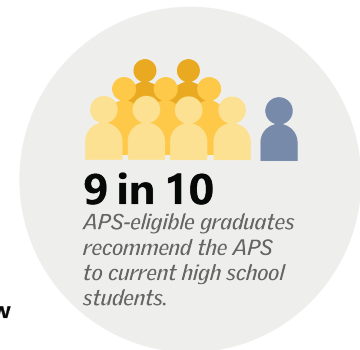
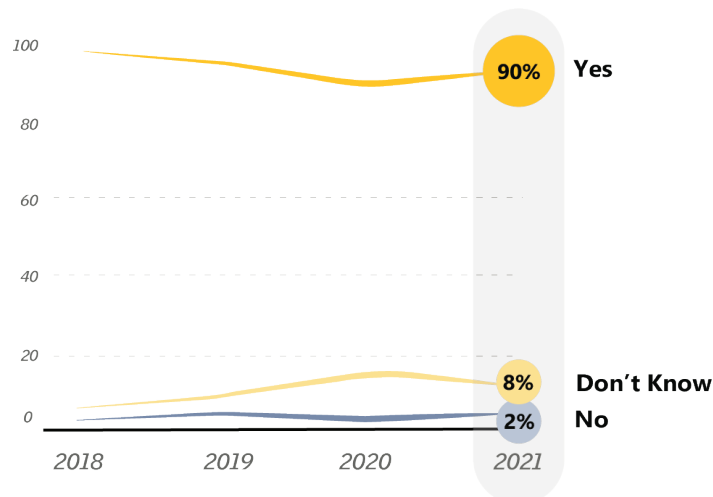


EXHIBIT 12

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"Would you recommend the APS to current high school students?"



Data Source: ACPE APS-Eligible Student Survey 2021

EXHIBIT 13

CLASS OF 2021 APS SURVEY: REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THE APS

When asked why they would recommend the APS to high school students, survey respondents routinely cited significantly reduced financial stress and increased opportunity to attend postsecondary education. Below are selected comments on top reasons for recommending the APS. For a full list of verbatim comments see Appendix C.

High School Achievement

- *Because it is based not only on testing but also gives a good guideline for classes and incentive for hard work. The money received helped me greatly.*
- *Great way to be rewarded for your hard work and encourages scholars to [pursue] postsecondary education and give them more opportunities.*
- *It encourages students to keep their grades up and work hard.*
- *I've known about the APS since 8th grade. I based my entire high school education around achieving the top tier of the APS. I've told many high schoolers about it already and will definitely continue to do so.*

Access to Postsecondary Education

- *APS is a great amount of money that is very easy to acquire. Schools should talk about APS in detail during early years of high school because some do not know of it. By not bringing it up to students you are robbing them of a great opportunity that many don't have.*
- *APS pays for almost the entirety of 1 semester (at least for freshman year) making it possible to pay for college by working over the summer, something that is extremely valuable, as working during the school year impacts your performance by quite a bit.*
- *Without it I wouldn't be going to college right now. I am so thankful for this scholarship. I worked hard for it, and it paid off and it's helping my family financially.*
- *I have the opportunity to get all the way through my bachelors with no debt! I want to share that experience with the kids around me.*
- *It can literally be the deciding factor if you go to college or not.*
- *The APS has assisted me in paying for many of my classes. It came in helpful when I couldn't work due to a COVID outbreak in my workplace. I saved a lot of money by having the APS!*
- *Yes, because of how much it helped cover costs especially when my employment was halted from the start of COVID.*



Data Source: ACPE APS-Eligible Student Survey 2021

Retaining Students in Alaska



• *I would not be able to afford college with it and would likely have looked at colleges out of state that had offered more scholarships. I also would not have taken several of the classes I did in high school that are now helping me significantly in college.*

• *It allows me the opportunity to attend in state college. If I did not receive the scholarship, I would leave state to attend college.*

• *With the APS, attending an in-state college provides a major financial incentive to stay in the state.*

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The 2021 survey asked APS-eligible students about impacts of the pandemic on their postsecondary enrollment decisions. Nearly one-third (31%) of APS-eligible graduates from the class of 2021 said the pandemic affected their decision to enroll at an Alaska postsecondary institution this year (Exhibit 14). Most students (65%) indicated that the pandemic had some impact on their postsecondary education plans, including 33% who decided to stay in Alaska and 16% who enrolled in online-only learning (Exhibit 15). Many students indicated they and their families were financially impacted by the pandemic, and 72% said APS was important in offsetting these impacts (Exhibit 16).

APS & THE PANDEMIC:

The majority of APS-eligible students in the class of 2021 said **THE APS WAS IMPORTANT** in offsetting the economic impact caused by COVID-19.

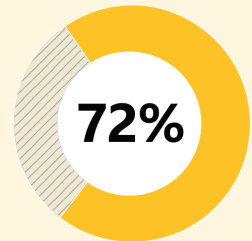
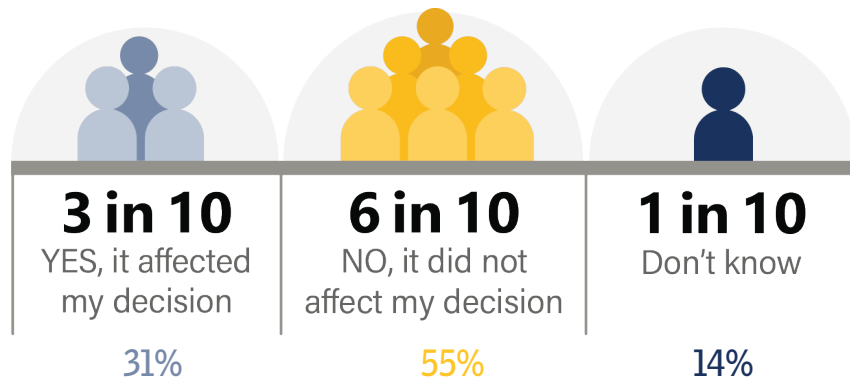


EXHIBIT 14

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"Did uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic affect your decision whether to enroll in an Alaska postsecondary institution this year?"



Data Source: ACPE APS-Eligible Student Survey 2021

EXHIBIT 15

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"Describe how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted your postsecondary education plans."

NOTE: Columns do not add to 100% due to multiple selections allowed

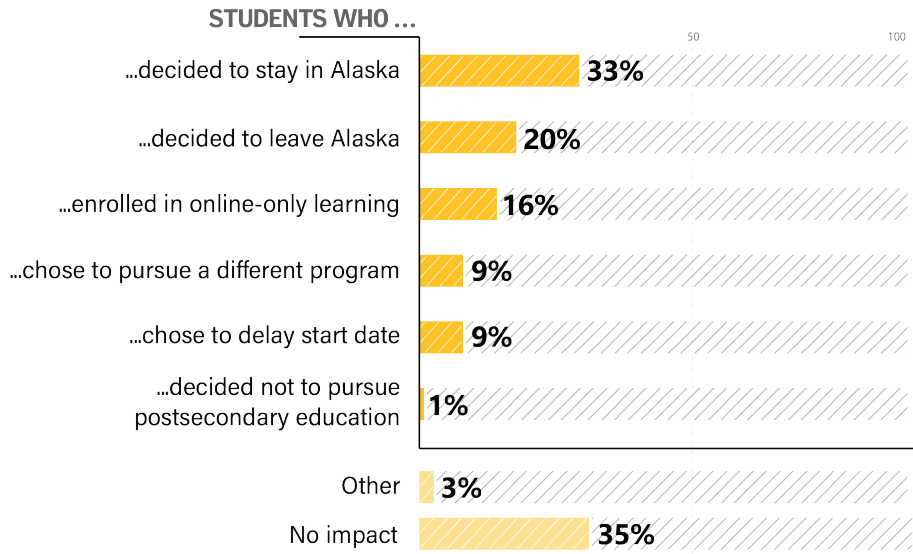
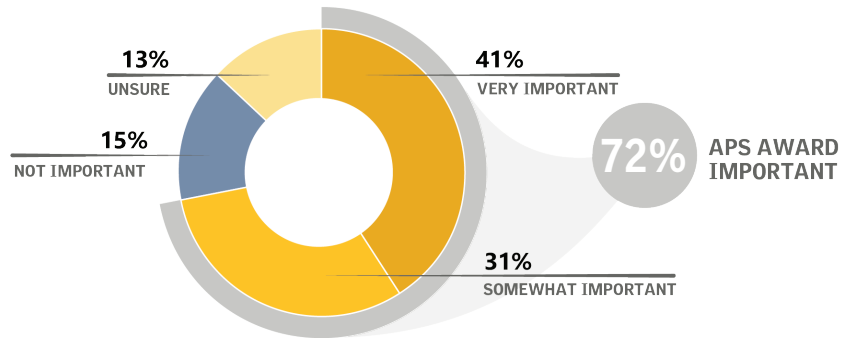


EXHIBIT 16

Class of 2021 APS Survey:

"To support your planning to cover the cost of college or training, how important is the APS in offsetting the economic impact caused by COVID-19?"



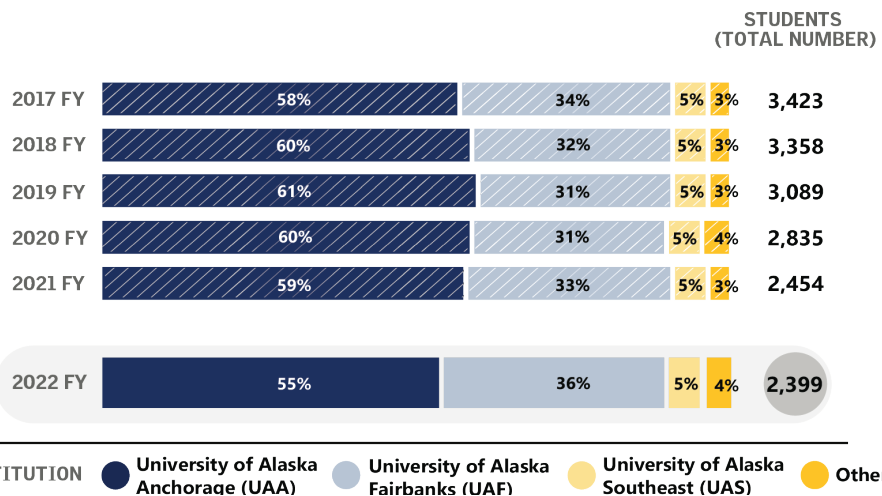
Data Source: ACPE APS-Eligible Student Survey 2021

APS & POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES

Among APS recipients in FY2022,⁶ 96% attend University of Alaska institutions, with 55% attending University of Alaska Anchorage, 36% attending University of Alaska Fairbanks, and 5% attending University of Alaska Southeast (Exhibit 17). These figures have not fluctuated significantly in recent years.

EXHIBIT 17

APS Recipients Attending Postsecondary in Alaska by Institution, FY2017-FY2021 & Preliminary FY2022⁶



Source: ACPE Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McKinley Research Group calculations.

6 · FY2022 based on preliminary fall 2021 ASAP data; students for whom FY2022 institution data were missing were not considered in this analysis.

APS RECIPIENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA



A stated goal of the APS is to ensure students are prepared for college or career training. In fall 2021, APS recipients were far less likely than other first-time students enrolled at UA to require developmental coursework (Exhibit 18). Another APS program goal is for students to succeed in college. On average, APS recipients attempt and complete more credit hours per year than their peers (Exhibit 19). APS recipients entering in fall 2020 completed 81% of attempted credits compared to 62% among other students.

APS recipients return for a second year of postsecondary education at higher rates than other first-time freshmen. Of those entering in fall 2019, 82% of APS recipients re-enrolled in fall 2020 compared to 57% of non-recipients (Exhibit 20).

DEVELOPMENTAL COURSEWORK:

APS RECIPIENTS MORE PREPARED FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

APS RECIPIENTS 1/4 AS LIKELY

to require developmental coursework than other first-time freshmen

EXHIBIT 18

Percent of Enrolled First-Time Freshmen at UA from the Class of 2021 Needing Developmental Coursework, Fall 2021

McKinley Research Group calculations.

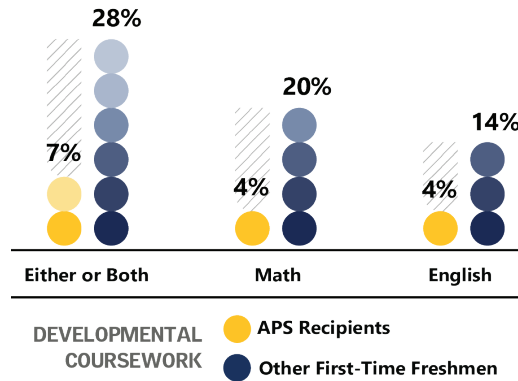


EXHIBIT 19

Average Credit Hours Attempted and Completed by High School Class, 2011-2020

Summary data and calculations provided by University of Alaska Data Analysis & Institutional Research Department, Fall 2011 - Fall 2021

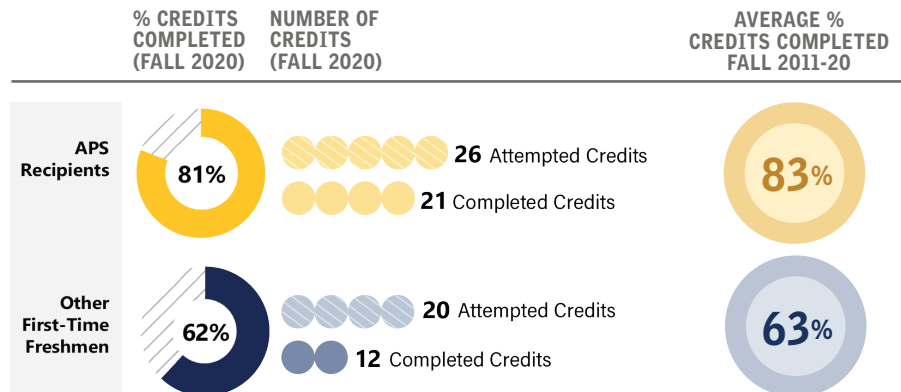
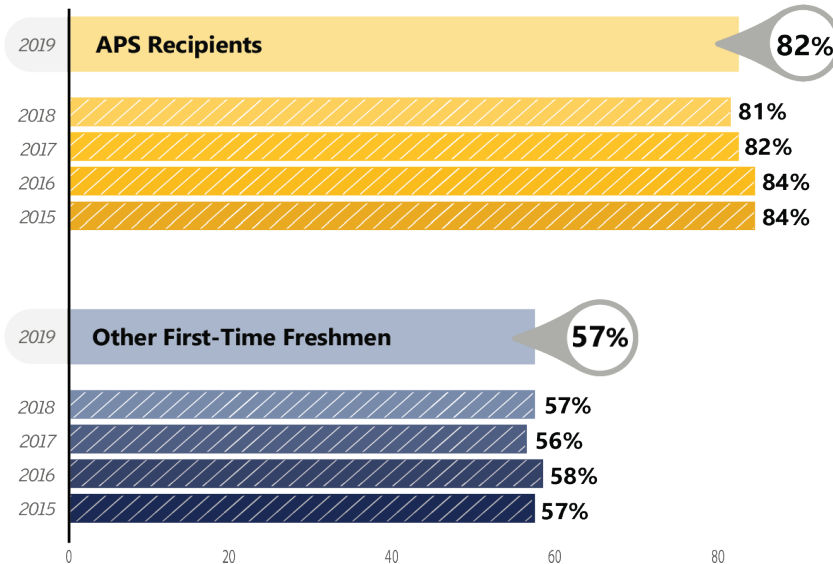


EXHIBIT 20

Percent of First-Time Freshmen at UA Who Persisted Into a Second Year, Entering Fall 2015-2019



Completion rates are another way to track college success. Of first-time, full-time freshmen entering UA in fall 2015, 62% of APS recipients graduated with an undergraduate degree, certificate, or occupational endorsement within six years, more than double the rate (29%) of other students (Exhibit 21). The most recent available national six-year completion rate was 33% for degree-seeking students at comparable institutions.⁷

APS recipients also have higher completion rates for programs designed to be completed in two years or less. Of public high school graduates in the class of 2018 attending such programs, 36% of APS recipients graduated from the program within three years, compared to 26% of other first-time students (Exhibit 22). While not directly comparable, the nationwide three-year graduation rate for first-time students attending public, two-year institutions was 28% for students entering in 2016, the most recent year available.⁸ Exhibit 23 provides preliminary characteristics of first-time students entering UA in fall 2021.

APS RECIPIENTS SUCCEED AT UA:

1 RETENTION

1.5 TIMES

More likely for APS recipients to persist into their 2nd year compared to other first-time freshmen

2

DEGREE LEVEL

1.5 TIMES

More likely for APS recipients to pursue a bachelor's degree program than other first-time freshmen

3

COMPLETIONS

2 TIMES

More likely for APS recipients to graduate from a bachelor's degree program than other first-time freshmen

Summary data and calculations provided by University of Alaska Data Analysis & Institutional Research Department, Fall 2011 - Fall 2021

7 - National Center for Education Statistics. Annual Report 2020. National graduation rates are based on first-time students entering public, four-year institutions with open admissions in 2013.

8 - National Center for Education Statistics. Annual Report 2020. National graduation rates are based on first-time students entering public, two-year institutions in 2016.

EXHIBIT 21

Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Six-Year Graduation Rates by High School Class, 2011-2015

9- Based on bachelor's degree-seeking first-time, full-time students

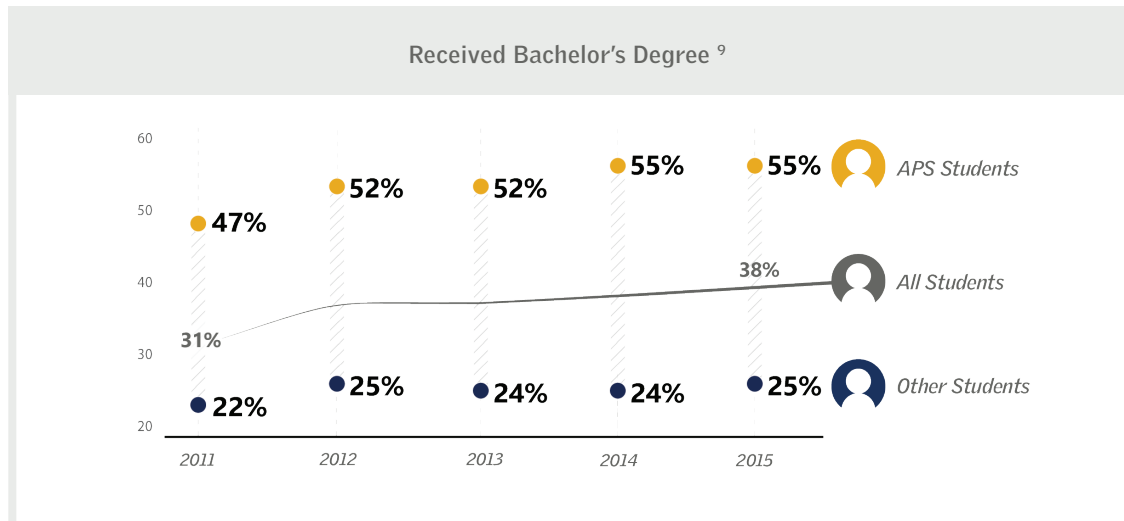
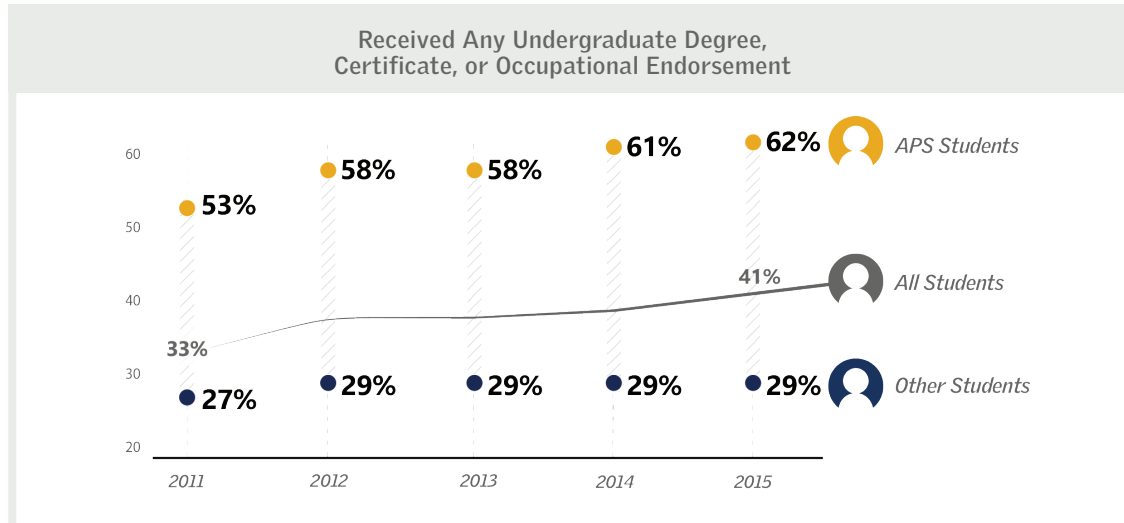
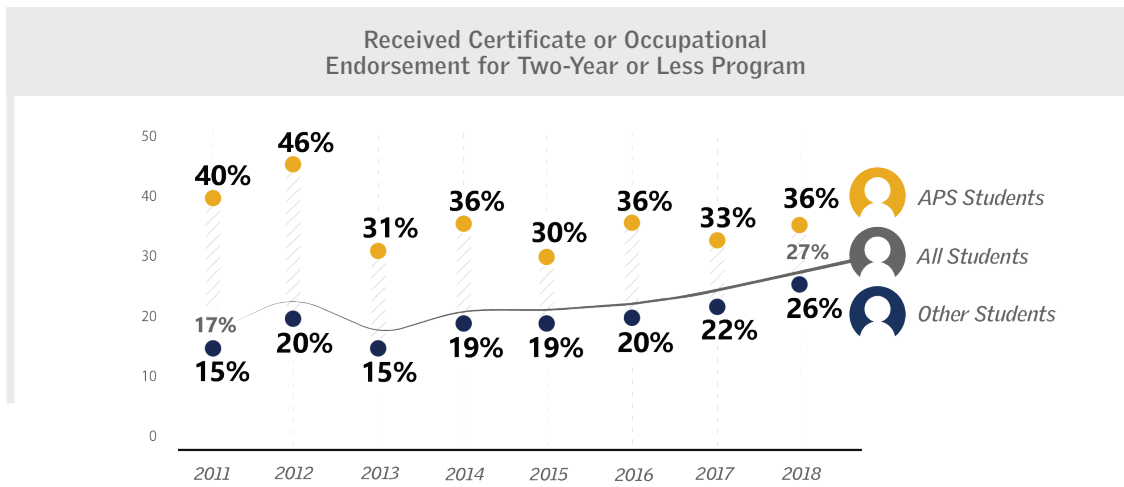


EXHIBIT 22

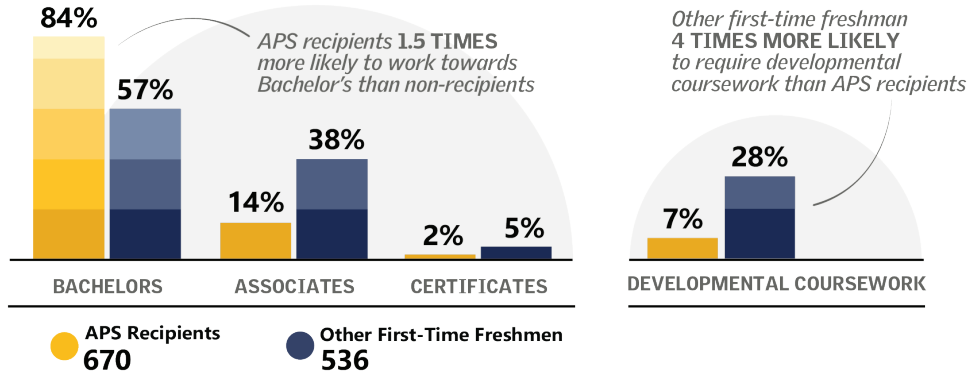
Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Three Year Graduate Rate for Two-Year or Less Programs by High School Class, 2011-2018



Summary data and calculations provided by University of Alaska Data Analysis & Institutional Research Department, Fall 2011 - Fall 2021

EXHIBIT 23

Recent Alaska High School Graduates Entering University of Alaska by Degree Level Sought, Class of 2021

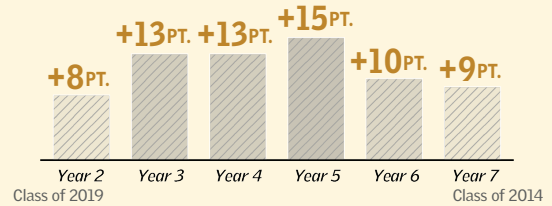


Summary data and calculations provided by University of Alaska Data Analysis & Institutional Research Department, Fall 2011 - Fall 2021

APS & ALASKA RESIDENCY OUTCOMES

One goal of the APS program is to help the state retain high-achieving Alaska high school graduates. APS recipients have higher Alaska residency rates compared to ineligible students, as well as those who were eligible but did not use the APS. About 62% of high school class of 2011 APS recipients were Alaska residents in 2021, compared to 59% of all high school graduates, and 34% of those who were APS-eligible but did not use the award (Exhibit 24).

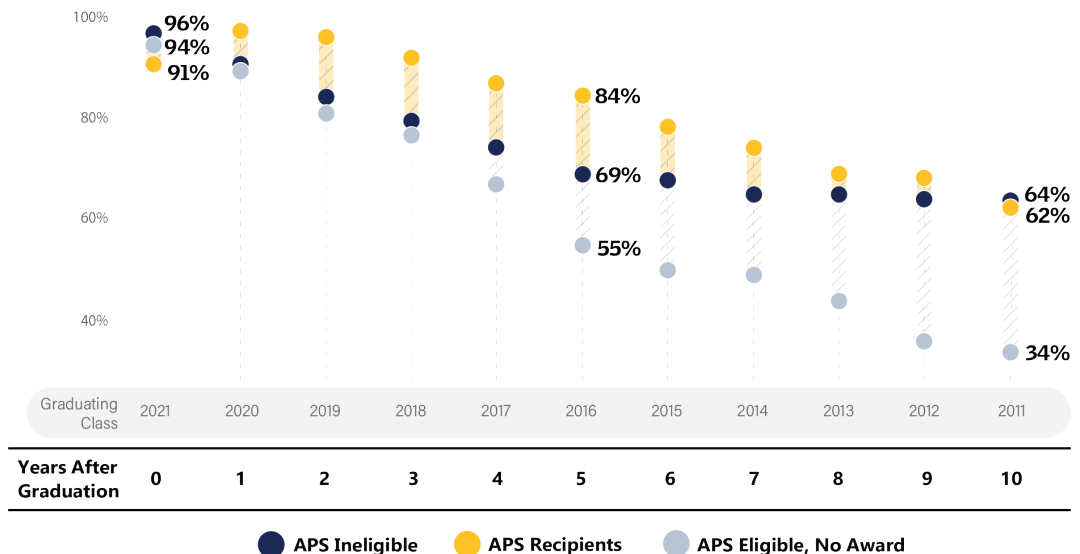
RETAINING GRADUATES:



APS recipients have higher residency rates than ineligible students, most notably 2-7 years after graduation (Class of 2014-19)

EXHIBIT 24

Percentage of Alaska High School Graduates Who Reside in Alaska, by Class and APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2011-2021



Data Source: Alaska Department of Revenue Permanent Fund Dividend Applicant Database 2021.

APS RECIPIENTS IN THE ALASKA WORKFORCE

Another measure of the state's retention of high-achieving students is employment in the Alaska labor force. Based on analysis by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), APS recipients had higher rates of employment in Alaska than ineligible graduates and APS-eligible graduates who did not use the APS. Six to seven years after high school graduation, 72% of APS recipients from the class of 2013 and the class of 2014 were employed in the Alaska labor force (Exhibit 25).

Among high school graduates in the Alaska workforce in FY2020, APS recipients earned slightly higher average wages than their ineligible peers and those who were eligible but did not use the APS (Exhibit 25).

Exhibit 26 lists the top occupations of former Alaska high school graduates from the classes of 2013-2015 working in Alaska in FY2020.

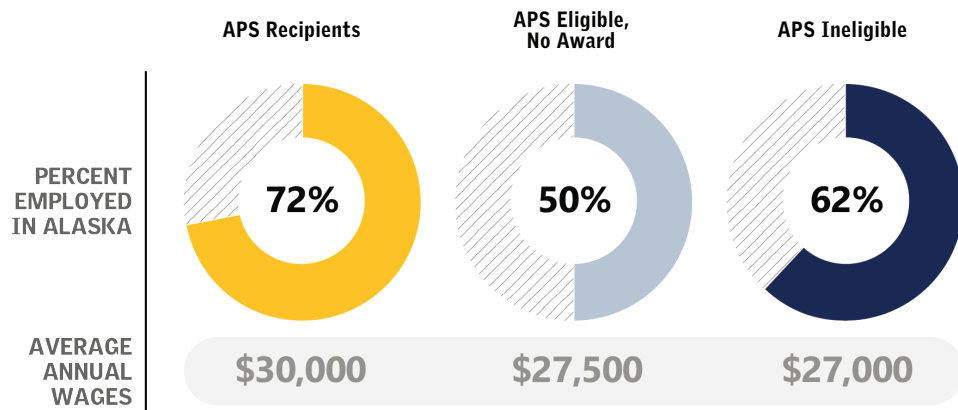
APS RECIPIENTS HAVE HIGHER ANNUAL WAGES:

\$2,000 - \$3,000

more annually than APS eligible, no award and APS ineligible students

EXHIBIT 25

Percent of Graduates Employed in Alaska and Average Annual Wages by High School Graduating Class and APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2013 and 2014



Data Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

EXHIBIT 26

Top Occupations in Alaska Among High School Graduates in FY2020 by APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2013-2015 Combined

APS RECIPIENTS		APS ELIGIBLE, NO AWARD		APS INELIGIBLE	
Occupation	%	Occupation	%	Occupation	%
Retail Sales Workers	8%	Retail Sales Workers	8%	Retail Sales Workers	11%
Other Office & Administrative Support Workers	6%	Food & Beverage Serving Workers	7%	Construction Trades Workers	7%
Information & Record Clerks	5%	Other Office & Administrative Support Workers	7%	Food & Beverage Serving Workers	6%
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	5%	Information & Record Clerks	5%	Information & Record Clerks	5%
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	4%	Construction Trades Workers	4%	Material Moving Workers	5%
Financial Clerks	4%	Other Healthcare Support Occupations	4%	Other Office & Administrative Support Workers	5%
Other Healthcare Support Occupations	4%	Financial Clerks	4%	Home Health & Personal Care Aides; & Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, & Psychiatric Aides	4%
Engineers	3%	Home Health & Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, & Psychiatric Aides	3%	Other Healthcare Support Occupations	3%
Other Educational Instruction & Library Occupations	3%	Material Moving Workers	3%	Financial Clerks	3%
Home Health & Personal Care Aides; & Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, & Psychiatric Aides	3%	Other Educational Instruction & Library Occupations	2%	Cooks & Food Preparation Workers	3%
Computer Occupations	3%	Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	2%	Building Cleaning & Pest Control Workers	3%
Other Occupations	52%	Other Occupations	51%	Other Occupations	46%

Data Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is designed to reward Alaska students who excel in high school with scholarships to help cover the cost of in-state postsecondary education. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) contracted with McKinley Research Group (MRG) to prepare a report of program outcomes for the 2022 fiscal year.

Methodology

Several data sources are used throughout this report. ACPE provided student-level data from the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP). Data was analyzed by MRG to describe the student demographics, eligibility, and program usage. ASAP data for academic years 2011-2012 through 2020-2021 were used to provide comparisons for prior fiscal years. ASAP data for academic year 2021-2022 were run in October 2021 and are considered preliminary. Additional data on the total number and demographics of Alaska public high school graduates were provided by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

ACPE requested student enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). MRG used student-level ASAP and NSC data to request aggregated data on the percentage of Alaska high school graduates in the state workforce as of FY2020 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD).

In October and November 2021, ACPE surveyed APS-eligible students from the class of 2022 to better understand how the APS impacted their high school decisions. The survey was sent to students via email. APS sent survey invitations to 2,394 high school graduates and received responses from 382 students (16%).

ACPE requested aggregated data on educational persistence, credit hours attempted and achieved, and other characteristics from the University of Alaska (UA) for inclusion in the report.¹ Student-level data were analyzed by the University of Alaska Data Analysis and Institutional Research Department and provided to MRG in summarized form.

1. Historically 96-97% of students who use the APS attend University of Alaska.



APPENDIX B

Public School Class of 2021 APS Headcounts, by School District

<i>School District</i>	<i>Class of 2021 High School Graduates</i>	<i>APS-Eligible Graduates</i>	<i>Fall of 2021 APS Recipients</i>	<i>APS Award Amount</i>
Alaska Gateway	21	*	*	*
Aleutian Region	0	0	0	\$0
Aleutians East Borough	12	0	0	\$0
Anchorage	2,631	1,135	213	\$417,141
Annette Island	11	*	0	\$0
Bering Strait	95	5	*	*
Bristol Bay Borough	5	*	*	*
Chatham	10	*	*	*
Chugach	32	26	5	\$10,701
Copper River	23	10	*	*
Cordova City	17	*	*	*
Craig City	28	7	*	*
Delta-Greely	23	10	*	*
Denali Borough	64	49	7	\$15,654
Dillingham City	26	7	0	\$0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	681	278	122	\$255,029
Galena City	470	132	27	\$61,232
Haines Borough	20	10	*	*
Hoonah City	5	*	*	*
Hydaburg City	13	5	0	\$0
Iditarod Area	12	*	0	\$0
Juneau Borough	272	110	26	\$56,177
Kake City	3	*	*	*
Kashunamiut	20	16	*	*
Kenai Peninsula Borough	547	192	45	\$96,306
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	154	59	8	\$16,644
Klawock City	10	0	0	\$0
Kodiak Island Borough	145	68	12	\$22,589
Kuspuk	7	0	0	\$0

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by "*"

APPENDIX B

Public School Class of 2021 APS Headcounts, by School District — Continued

<i>School District</i>	<i>Class of 2021 High School Graduates</i>	<i>APS-Eligible Graduates</i>	<i>Fall of 2021 APS Recipients</i>	<i>APS Award Amount</i>
Lake and Peninsula Borough	27	*	0	\$0
Lower Kuskokwim	204	42	20	\$45,181
Lower Yukon	115	*	0	\$0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,239	404	126	\$262,266
Mount Edgecumbe	75	46	10	\$18,130
Nenana City	132	22	11	\$25,563
Nome Public Schools	39	*	*	*
North Slope Borough	119	15	*	*
Northwest Arctic Borough	102	23	5	\$9,809
Pelican City	0	0	0	\$0
Petersburg Borough	27	12	*	*
Pribilof	0	0	0	\$0
Saint Mary's	8	*	*	*
Sitka	90	39	*	*
Skagway	6	0	0	\$0
Southeast Island	6	*	0	\$0
Southwest Region	29	*	*	*
Tanana City	2	0	0	\$0
Unalaska City	24	11	6	\$13,078
Valdez City	38	17	*	*
Wrangell Public Schools	14	13	*	*
Yakutat	6	0	0	\$0
Yukon Flats	226	55	19	\$41,911
Yukon-Koyukuk	18	10	*	*
Yupiit	29	0	0	\$0
TOTAL	7,932	2,861	697	\$1,442,911

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

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by “*”

APPENDIX C

The following are verbatim comments submitted by respondents to the 2021 APS-Eligible Student Survey: *Would you recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students? Why or why not?*

Absolutely - any scholarship a student receives will make a postsecondary education easier to receive.

Any scholarships are good, and this one is very attainable for many students. Especially if you're able to get Level 1, it can make a big difference.

APS is a great amount of money that is very easy to acquire. Schools should talk about APS in detail during early years of high school because some do not know of it. By not bringing it up to students you are robbing them of a great opportunity that many don't have.

APS is a great way to have money ready for you for college or technical school later on.

APS is a very valuable resource to Alaskan students, providing them with a funds to help finance their pursuit of postsecondary education. While requirements can be more difficult to fulfill in rural areas where classes offered are much more limited, that doesn't change the fact that it is a scholarship available to Alaskans that can provide a significant portion of money to students and offset their costs.

APS is a wonderful way to pay for college! The process to apply is pretty simple as well.

APS pays for almost the entirety of 1 semester (at least for freshman year) making it possible to pay for college by working over the summer, something that is extremely valuable, as working during the school year impacts your performance by quite a bit.

Because for many in state students it is the only way they are able to attend college, and many people who are in most need of it do not know it exists, because wealthier people typically have more resources to discovering scholarships than poor people, even though the wealthy need it much less. Basically, publicize it more.

Because it allows Alaskan's who may not have another opportunity to pursue a college degree to pursue a degree. It also allows for an each back up plan and all of the requirements are relatively easy to achieve and engaging.

Because it can be the make or break in college funding. It also can help finding for lower income studies to have more funds to pay for the school year.

Because it can give you more stability and support.

Because it can knock off quite of tuition every year for students.

Because it helped me a lot.

Because it helps a lot with paying for classes. I would have had to take student loans without it.

Because it is money that no one will give to someone and also it helps with costs that you can't pay on your own.

Because it will help them cover the cost, and for people with good grades they get better help.

Because it's very helpful when you want to go to college but don't have enough money.

Because money is money. If you can pay less, why not take the chance.

Because the APS helped me so much to pay for my college.

Because the APS provides a good amount of money to help students get through and succeed in college.

College is expensive so use the money that is offered to you.

Depending on the student's GPA and were/ what they want to do with their futures, I would highly recommend working towards getting this scholarship because college will be much harder to pay for if not done.

Don't want them in debt.

Every bit of aid helps when going to college.

Every bit of funding given by institutions through scholarships and good grades could improve your chances of finding your career and/or reducing the cost of college tuition to making it more affordable or even free.

For my family it helps with the costs. Without it I wouldn't be going to college right now. I am so thankful for this scholarship. I worked hard for it and it paid off and it's helping my family financially.

Great way to save money, especially if you are planning on going to grad school.

Help is help.

Helped with financial issues.

Helps with costs greatly.

I have the opportunity to get all the way through my bachelors with no debt! I want to share that experience with the kids around me.

I helps to pay for college.

I think all students should at least try to get it, the more funding to help during school that you have, the less debt and burden you have later.

I think it can be very beneficial to students who have a plan or don't have a plan in order to try and help them succeed and with each and every student being significantly different I think it's very important to Alaska.

I would absolutely recommend the Alaska Performance Scholarship to current high school students because it will help that student a lot with paying their college funds.

I would because it can encourage them to do better in their studies so that they can pursue their dreams easier.

I would recommend it because it can save you a lot of money in the long run.

I would recommend it because it does help in many ways. I can help take some stress away from those who are applying and their families.

Note: minor punctuation edits made for clarification

APPENDIX C — Continued

I would recommend it, because it has allowed me to attend college at a very reduced cost, and for that I am very thankful.

I would recommend the APS because it is a sizeable scholarship and in some ways is easier to qualify for than private scholarships.

If they are going to do secondary education, they should try and get any scholarship they can.

If they have an opportunity to get free money, they should take it without any hesitation.

If you make sure you are eligible throughout high school, it is a great way to pay for some of your tuition.

It can help other students.

It can literally be the deciding factor if you go to college or not.

It greatly helped me pay for classes when I wanted to be as financially healthy and smart as possible having just graduated high school and taking a very costly post-secondary degree.

It has given me the ability to attend college while also holding a full time job to help my family.

It has helped my family immensely.

It has helped significantly with the cost of college.

It has helped tremendously in my ability to pay for college and took a ton of weight off my shoulders.

It helped me cover most of my online tuition, I am using the equipment from the university, but it didn't really hurt me in any way because I applied to a lot of scholarships and most of the 5 scholarships helps covered the cost.

It helps a lot when you are looking for financial support and want to pursue a costly degree.

It helps pay for college.

It helps pay for college.

It helps so much, I would be struggling without this.

It helps to pay for classes.

It is a good opportunity for students that may otherwise struggle in paying tuition.

It is a good scholarship that is worth trying to receive.

It is a good way to help pay for college.

It is a great scholarship and depending on where you attend it can cover half of the tuition.

It is a great supplement to earned income, allowing a larger amount of time to dedicate to studying as opposed to working extra or going into debt to gain the required finances.

It is a great tool if you need help paying for school or just want to get a head start.

It is a great way to be compensated for your work and to get an education that is partly paid for.

It is a great way to offset the financial burden of college.

It is a very useful tool that can help guide you on the right academic path while also helping you financially achieve your goals.

It is money that you have worked for that you can save and put towards school in order to stay away from student debt.

It is very beneficial for students worried about the financial aspect of attending college.

It is very helpful to use to pay for college!!

It is very obtainable for the average student and helps cover costs considerably. It isn't based around club or sport participation and instead actual grades and scores in school.

It makes college in Alaska a little more affordable.

It makes college more affordable and reduces stress.

It makes so you don't have to worry nearly as much about tuition costs and prices for textbooks. Since you have the costs covered it allows you to spend more time on school and even work.

It takes off some of the financial burden.

It takes some relief off of higher tuition.

It was the only way I was able to afford college.

It will help a lot for postsecondary tuition payment, and give you more of a chance to not have any student debt.

It will help secure funding your college education.

It will help.

It's a good way to help pay for college.

It's a great way to get financial help.

It's a large sum of money that makes college much easier.

It's a scholarship so basically free money for college students so I would recommend it to anyone.

It's a significant amount of money, and since it lasts for six years, there's no pressure to immediately go to college.

It's an amazing scholarship and a wonderful opportunity if wanting to go to college and don't have the money for it.

It's an opportunity to help cover tuition fees and costs when enrolled.

It's easy to get and can help you save a lot of money on college.

It's easy, free money towards college.

It's extremely economically impacting and important.

It's extremely helpful with funds and gives a lot of financial aid which allows students to attend college without needing to work a job or depend on parents for money.

It's great way to help with school.

It's handy.

It's very helpful for students who are pursuing academic goals with low funding.

It's very important because without it I wouldn't be able to afford to go to college.

Money to pay for college.

Personally, I advise others to avoid any student loans if possible. Because of this belief, I think that any scholarship should be strived for in order to help pay for expensive tuition fees.

The APS has assisted me in paying for many of my classes. It came in helpful when I couldn't work due to a covid outbreak in my workplace. I saved a lot of money by having the APS!

Note: minor punctuation edits made for clarification

APPENDIX C — Continued

The APS has helped me be more confident financially in starting school this spring.

The APS has helped me financially to help me achieve the best education for me.

The APS helps out all types of students depending on their performance in school. Any help is better than not receiving any help at all!

The APS is a huge part of my financial aid. Without it I probably wouldn't be willing to spend the extra money to pursue a degree. I know people personally who have huge amounts of student debt, and I would tell them there's another way.

The APS is extra money for those who earn it not only does it say you got good grades it also makes it easier for those people facing financial difficulties but still wish to proceed to higher education.

The APS makes college in Alaska affordable enough that I don't have to worry about applying for loans.

The extra money always helps out.

The scholarship it provides helps very much.

There are a lot of families here in Alaska and around the world who don't come from a family with money and need to work for the funds to pay for college. Any amount of money would satisfy them and their efforts to pay for further education.

This program will definitely help you as a starting point on your journey after high school. It may sound intimidating, because of the qualifications, but once you get into it and work hard it will pay you off a huge amount of depth for college.

This will help cover costs, especially if parents are not helping pay for college.

With the help of APS and other awards and grants, I am blessed I didn't have to pay a single penny for my first semester of college.

Yes, because APS will help them a lot if they are struggling to pay their costs.

Yes, because it is a helpful scholarship that is able to help cover college tuition.

Yes, because of how much it helped cover costs especially when my employment was halted from the start of covid.

Yes, I think this is a great way to help achieve your collegiate goals.

Any scholarship is usually worth applying for, especially if a student meets the requirements. Students that don't meet requirements currently in high school should try to before college starts, for themselves and for the scholarship.

Because it encourages you to get good grades, or at least moderate grades, and it is free money. The less you have to spend on school, the longer your funds will last, and the more you can benefit from them.

Because it is based not only on testing but also gives a good guideline for classes and incentive for hard work. The money received helped me greatly.

Because it's good even if you don't end up using it because you've shown work ethic by getting good grades.

For taking more classes in certain subjects, you get more money for college. All the classes I took were ones I already wanted to take, so it all worked out. You might as well utilize free education as much as you can to aid your paid education.

Free money for doing well in school and trying hard.

Good way to help finances in college and motivation to do good in classes.

Great opportunity, you just have to be willing to work hard. It's worth it if you can go to college to create a better future for you and your family.

Great way to be rewarded for your hard work and encourages scholars to persevere post-secondary education and give them more opportunities.

It is a good opportunity, and it will encourage work ethic.

I would recommend it because it will push high school students to do well in their classes and it is very beneficial for upcoming college students.

I would recommend the APS to current high school students because it supports you in your college journey. It provides aid and can access you to many opportunities along the way. For all of your hard work in school, they grant you awards for you to earn! It's amazing and it really drove me to try my best.

It changed the way I worked in school because I knew so wanted to archive a high gap.

It could really help pay for college since college is very expensive. It also encourages students to keep their grades up and work hard.

It encouraged me to excel, and it helps with costs.

It is a great program that allows students to be able to financially go to college. The cost of college is always a big concern and receiving the APS has lifted a huge burden off my shoulders. In addition, taking challenging courses and working hard to get placement scores is also better preparing you for the college experience.

It is a scholarship that you can receive while doing required schoolwork and FAFSA is necessary for college as well. It is a rewarding scholarship for a bit more effort in high school.

It is always good to work hard and get as many scholarships as you can.

It is free money you gain from doing well in school, I don't see why I would not recommend it.

It's an easy way to get a scholarship and will motivate you to do better in school.

It's a massive advantage and I wouldn't have planned out my steps for after high school the same way that I have.

It's an easy way to motivate one to keep grades up and work hard for a really great reward. It helps you get an easy step forward into college.

I've known about the APS since 8th grade. I based my entire high school education around achieving the top tier of the APS. I've told many high schoolers about it already and will definitely continue to do so.

This allows for some students to attend college because of the hard work they put in for high school.

This scholarship was one of the most influential reasons as to why I wanted to keep my grades up in High School.

To get good grades for colleges.

Note: minor punctuation edits made for clarification

APPENDIX C — Continued

Yes, I feel like APS offers high school students a chance to strive for academic excellence. This scholarship is a great resource for many, and I believe all eligible should apply.

Your work pays off for how well you do, and you earn money for it.

APS was a great scholarship to have if I would have stayed in Alaska for my undergrad. I attend Washington State University-Pullman, so APS did not affect me in any way.

Especially if you stay in state, the amount given is a huge help, especially for those trying to be financially independent.

For students planning on attending college in Alaska, it is a good program. However, I did not stay in Alaska.

I would not be able to afford college with it and would likely look at colleges out of state that had offered more scholarships. I also would not have taken several of the classes I did in high school that are now helping me significantly in college.

I would recommend APS to students who want affordable in state tuition.

I would recommend it if the student is planning to attend college in Alaska.

If staying in state it will help a lot.

If they were staying in Alaska. It doesn't help if you want to leave Alaska.

If you are planning to attend a college in Alaska it is a decent amount of money that can take some of the financial burden off of college and it helps with being eligible for other scholarships.

If you are staying in Alaska, it is very helpful.

If you meet the requirements, it's up to like 4 grand in free money each year. Whether you plan outright to stay in state or leave, something could always come up and that's a really nice jumping off point to have for even a backup college in state. And if you plan already to stay in state for college, it would be straight stupid not to apply for it!

If you plan on attending an in-state university, I would highly recommend applying, even if you are not planning on attending an in-state university I would still recommend applying in case you change your mind.

If you stay in AK, it is very helpful.

If you want to stay in state for college, it's great.

It allows me the opportunity to attend in state college. If I did not receive the scholarship, I would leave state to attend college.

It can be very helpful to students who are seeking financial aid and attending school in Alaska.

It helps out with college tuition cost significantly in Alaska and, other than the testing requirements, it is quite easy to become eligible for, granted you have worked to maintain good grades.

It provides extra support to students who want to stay in Alaska for college, which is helpful if you want emotional and financial help from your family.

It's a great benefit of attending in state, and it really helps cover your costs of attendance, no matter what level you qualify for.

It's a great program for high achieving students that are considering staying in state.

It's a great program to fall back on if you ever return to Alaska and desire to get higher education.

It's an awesome opportunity for Alaska students to receive support for college.

Save money by going in state.

The APS provides an excellent opportunity to drive the cost of in-state tuition down for the top of each class. With the APS, attending an in-state college provides a major financial incentive to stay in the state.

Very good if you plan on staying in Alaska.

A good option for some/most?

Any help they can get would've useful.

Any scholarship is one to apply for.

Because it can help students in many different ways.

Because it is a great opportunity for my community to take advantage of it cause scholarships are very important.

Easy to apply, applicable to many students, significant amount of money.

Free money, why wouldn't you try to get it?

Great scholarship.

If you can get a scholarship, might as well get it right?

If you meet the requirements, there's no reason not to apply.

It gives people money.

It helps.

It is a great way to help decide a future for you!!

It is pretty much the easiest scholarship to apply for!

It was very accessible and obtainable to most students who are willing to just take the right classes and take the right test.

It's a good scholarship to be able to have!

It's a great scholarship.

It's an achievable and rewarding goal to look to when seeking post-secondary education.

It's easy to qualify.

Its free money.

It's free money.

It's helpful and fairly easy to get.

It's important to look for opportunities whether on your own or through connections. Finding things to help your future is important as an adult.

Money.

Money.

Really great and simple scholarship that will help you along the way.

The APS will help high school students save money for their post-secondary education.

They should apply you never know if you'll get it.

To have a financial support option to those willing to pursue a dream is amazing. It helps pay for college and relieve a lot of stress!

Yes.

Note: minor punctuation edits made for clarification