



UPDATES

Keeping you informed on APS news.

This APS newsletter is developed from common questions. As always, APS.alaska.gov is full of information to assist school districts, families, and students to learn more about this program. Thank you for the work you do. The next update will be in the spring.

APS Appeal Process

Sometimes, parents and students contact EED and ACPE to find out why they did not receive their APS award. Often, they need to work with their school district to correct the error. Alaska Statute 14.03.113 requires districts to provide students with an opportunity to ask the district to correct an error in eligibility determination. There are no time limits for the appeal, apart from the six-year window for eligible students to use their award. If your district does not yet have an appeal process, you may find these examples from [Fairbanks](#) and [Anchorage](#) useful. APS.alaska.gov also has a [sample Appeal Form for Districts](#).

APS COURSE MATRIX

Is the course matrix, a course list that details classes approved in each school district to meet the APS requirements, on your website so your students, families and staff have a roadmap for course planning? If not, check with your curriculum department or principal. The requested date for completion is December 2013. If you have questions or would like to see examples from other districts, please contact shari.paul@alaska.gov.

EARLY GRADUATION – DECEMBER DATES

High school seniors graduating in December can receive the APS if they meet all eligibility requirements for their graduating class. A student graduating in December 2013 is required to meet the curriculum requirements for the class of 2014. APS awards for December graduates will be available after the completion of the 2013/2014 school year, meaning they may not receive an award for postsecondary study before Fall of 2014, even if they begin a postsecondary program of study prior to the end of the 2013/2014 school year.



STATISTICS

It is still too early to determine the full impact the APS has had on encouraging students to pursue their postsecondary education in Alaska. However, since its inception in 2011, over 3,000 Alaska high school graduates have taken advantage of the APS. Thirty-two percent of Alaska's 2013 public high school graduates were eligible for the APS. This is up from 27% in 2012, even though the rigor and requirements increased. Over 8 million APS dollars have been distributed in 2013 to assist students with their postsecondary education in Alaska.

ALASKA'S LEARNING NETWORK (AKLN)

Course registration is now open for second semester! You can view the [course catalog](#) and [register](#) online at www.aklearn.net. AKLN courses: cost \$150/semester; are asynchronous (course work can be completed anytime anywhere); meet all prerequisites for the Alaska Performance Scholarship; have dual credit and tech prep options; and include World languages and Alaska studies (course designed and taught by an Alaska educator). New courses this semester include mining, NASA World Wind, Aviation, English and Health Care.

WEBINARS

APS webinars are available for your students, families and staff, and can be scheduled during the day or evening. Webinars can be from 30 to 45 minutes, and you will be provided with all the materials you need to make it successful. Contact Shari Paul at shari.paul@alaska.gov to schedule a webinar.

FINAL CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

With the Class of 2015, our current juniors, the final stage of the phased-in APS curriculum requirements will be completed. EED recognizes the challenges each district has faced with implementation and appreciates the hard work that has gone into restructuring, providing outreach, and supporting this new program. *The attached charts might be useful as you work with your students.*