

## UNDERSTANDING THE ANSWERS SCHOOL DISTRICT FEEDBACK REPORT

Your district's feedback report contains four views of how students are performing during and after their postsecondary experience, and provides statewide averages for comparison purposes. *The ANSWERS School District Feedback Report contains information protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, and should be shared only with individuals having a legitimate educational need to review this information as defined in law.* Below is a brief overview of the information included in the report.

### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE THE FALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

This information comes from the National Student Clearinghouse, or NSC. NSC collects postsecondary attendance data covering over 96% of students in public and private U.S. institutions, then matches their secondary and postsecondary records to calculate postsecondary attendance rates. Data in this report is current as of November 15, 2012.

**Total in the Class:** *This is the number of your district's high school graduates for each of the last five academic years.*

**% Enrolled, % In-State, % Out-of-State:** *The percentage of your districts' graduates pursuing postsecondary education, and where they are attending.*

**Statewide % Enrolled:** *The percentage of all Alaska graduates in that year pursuing postsecondary education.*

Note that NSC defines an academic year as starting on August 15<sup>th</sup>, while the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's (EED) academic year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of this, the number of graduates in an academic year may differ between the NSC and EED reports.

### APS ELIGIBLE AND RECIPIENT GRADUATES BY GENDER & ETHNICITY

Your district provides EED with information on graduates, including their eligibility to receive the Alaska Performance Scholarship. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, or ACPE, administers the scholarships and by matching your data to APS recipients, we can provide you with information on the number and characteristics of your graduates making use of the scholarship. This table breaks out your graduates based on their gender and ethnicity, and their eligibility for and receipt of the APS for both years of the program. For each group, the following information is reported:

**Graduates:** *The total number of graduates in that gender or ethnic group in each year.*

**APS-Eligible Count:** *The number of graduates in each group meeting the requirements to become APS eligible.*

**APS Eligible % of Grads:** *The APS-eligible graduates divided by the total number of graduates.*

**APS Eligible AK Avg:** *Same as APS Eligible % of Grads, but using statewide totals for each group.*

**APS Recipients Count:** *The number of APS-eligible students who received the scholarship in each group.*

**APS Recipients % of Eligible:** *The APS recipients divided by the number of APS-eligible graduates.*

**APS Recipients AK Avg:** *Same as APS Recipients % of Eligible, but using statewide totals for each group.*

Note that for the class of 2011, APS recipients include graduates receiving the scholarship at any time during the AY12 academic year. For 2012 graduates, the count of recipients only includes those receiving the scholarship during the fall semester following graduation.

## APS ELIGIBLE AND RECIPIENT GRADUATES BY POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT & AWARD LEVELS

This section looks at the attendance patterns of graduates by their APS eligibility and receipt of the scholarship, and their award levels. For the top table in this section, the column definitions are the same as in the previous table.

**Total in the Class:** This row includes all graduates from your district in academic years 2011 and 2012. 2011 APS recipient counts include graduates receiving the APS at any time in AY12, while for 2012 graduates only fall recipients are included.

**Total Enrolled (1<sup>st</sup> fall):** The count of students who enrolled the fall following their high school graduation.

**Total In-State, Out-Of-State:** The count of fall enrolled students based on their place of enrollment.

**Not Found/Not Enrolled:** The number of students not found in the NSC database, either because they did not pursue postsecondary education, they attended a school that was not a part of the NSC database, or their secondary and postsecondary records could not be matched by NSC.

This table presents attendance patterns by APS eligibility and award levels for your district and statewide averages. Statewide, those students eligible for the top tier APS awards are the ones most likely to pursue postsecondary education, but they are also least likely to use the scholarship since they often attend an out-of-state institution.

**Total Eligible:** The number of APS-eligible graduates from your district, and the count and percentages attending a postsecondary institution and receiving the scholarship.

**Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Not Eligible:** This same information for each of the three APS award levels, and postsecondary attendance information for non-APS-eligible graduates.

## GRADUATES BY APS ELIGIBILITY, POSTSECONDARY REMEDIAL NEEDS & RETENTION

The University of Alaska enrolls approximately 99% of APS recipients. One measure of high school graduates' preparedness to continue their education is the need for remedial postsecondary coursework. The upper table in this section contains information on graduates attending UA and their need for remediation, broken out by their level of APS eligibility.

**Graduates:** The total number of your district's graduates by their level of APS eligibility.

**Total Attending:** For each group, the number of graduates attending UA in the fall after their graduation.

**Remedial Course Enrollment and % of Attending:** Of attending students, the number and percentage of students who took a remedial course.

**All Hours:** The average number of credit hours students attempted in the fall semester, both remedial and college level courses.

**Remedial:** The average number of remedial credit hours students attempted in the fall semester.

**% of Total Hours:** The average number of remedial credit hours as a percentage of the average total hours attempted.

This section also contains information on the number of 2011 graduates who returned to UA for a second year of postsecondary studies. Statewide, 83% of APS eligible 2011 graduates who attended UA in fall 2011 returned to UA in fall 2012. For non-APS eligible students, only 56% of those attending fall 2011 returned the following fall. Please note that the preliminary figures reported here may differ from those reported in official University of Alaska publications due to differences in timing of the data extract and reporting periods.

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This report is a proof of concept for ANSWERS, Alaska's P-20W statewide longitudinal data system.  
Stakeholder input on this report will be solicited and incorporated in future publications.  
Contact Brian Rae at [brian.rae@alaska.gov](mailto:brian.rae@alaska.gov) with questions or comments about the report or ANSWERS.