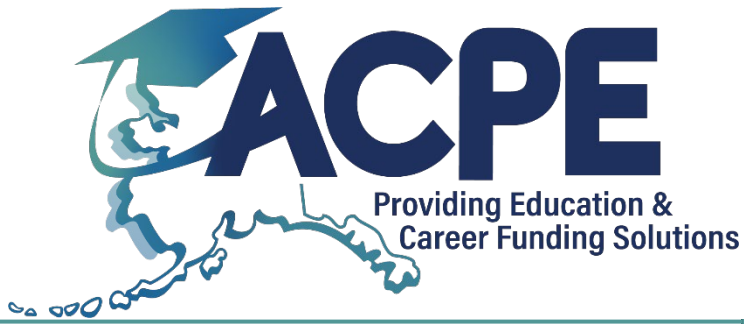


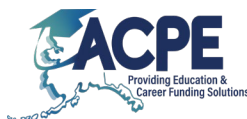


**Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education**

PROVIDING EDUCATION & CAREER FUNDING SOLUTIONS

Fall Quarter Commission Meeting

October 15, 2026



ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Zoom Link

Meeting #: 949 7685 9815

Password: ACPE

Teleconference: 1 (888) 788-0099; Code: 949 7685 9815 #

Alaska Pacific University

CH2MHill Board Room

4101 University Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508

AGENDA

October 15, 2026

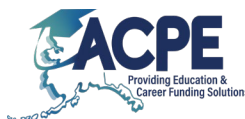
1. **9:30 A.M.** Convene/Roll Call
- 2.* Adoption of October 15, 2026 Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes from the July 23, 2026 Commission Meeting
 - *Suggested motion: Move to adopt the agenda of the October 15, 2026 Commission Meeting and approve the meeting minutes from the July 23, 2026 Commission Meeting.*
3. Ethics Disclosure Relative to Adopted Agenda
- 4.* Committee Appointments

Confirmation action not required:

 1. Institutional Standards and Evaluation (five members appointed by the chair)–
 1. Brittany Williams
 2. Kathryn McCollum
 3. Paula Harrison
 4. Trish Zugg, Chair
 5. John Brown, Vice-Chair
 2. Internal Audit –
 1. Brittany Williams
 2. Trish Zugg, ACPE Chair
 3. Donald Handeland, ASLC Chair
 4. Kerry Thomas, Executive Director, Ex-Officio Member

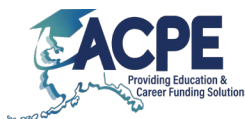
Confirmation action required:

 3. Executive Committee –
 1. Keith Hamilton
 2. Karen Perdue
 3. Trish Zugg, Chair
 4. John Brown, Vice-Chair
 5. Kerry Thomas, Executive Director, Ex-Officio Member
 - *Suggested motion: move approval of Commissioner Hamilton's and Commissioner Perdue's appointments to the Executive Committee.*



ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

5. Public Testimony:
 - Individuals: 3-minute limit
 - Group Representatives: 5-minute limit
6. **9:45 A.M.** Executive Director Report – Executive Director Kerry Thomas
7. **10:15 A.M.** University of Alaska Update – Dr. Brian Smentkowski, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
8. **10:45 A.M.** Morning Break
9. **11:00 A.M.** Annual Strategic Plan Update – Jamie Matheson, Director of Information Support Services
10. **12:00 P.M.** Lunch Break
11. **1:00 P.M.** Compliance Activities Report – Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
- 12.* Institutional Standards and Evaluation – Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
- 13.* **1:30 P.M.** Amendment to ACPE's AO360 Regulatory Reduction Plan - Jackie Hall, Program Manager
 - *Suggested motion: move to approve ACPE's amended annual regulatory plan, including changes to regulations in Title 20, Chapters 15 through 19, in compliance with Administrative Order 360.*
14. **2:00 P.M.** Alaska Performance Scholarship Year in Review – Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications and Outreach
15. **2:30 P.M.** Management Team Reports
 - a. Finance – CFO vacant, written report in packet
 - b. Program Operations – Lisa Benson
 - c. Communications and Outreach – Kate Hillenbrand
 - d. Information Support Services – Jamie Matheson
 - e. Human Resources – included in the Executive Director's Report
16. **3:00 P.M.** Afternoon Break
17. **3:15 P.M.** Mission Moment



ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

- 18.* Determine October 2027 Meeting Date
- Thursday, October 7, 2027 at 9:30 A.M.
 - Thursday, October 14, 2027 at 9:30 A.M.
 - *Suggested motion: move the Commission hold its 2027 all quarterly meeting on Thursday, October [DAY], 2027.*
19. **3:45 P.M.** Commissioner and Department Reports:
- a. Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Donald Handeland
 - b. Board of Education and Early Development – Kathryn McCollum
 - c. Board of Regents – Paula Harrison and/or Karen Perdue
 - d. Community Colleges – Vacant
 - e. Student Representative – Vacant
 - f. Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Trish Zugg
20. Miscellaneous:
- a. Administrative Action Log
 - b. Commission Members' Affiliations
 - c. Future Scheduled Meeting Dates
 - 1. January 14, 2027
 - 2. April 1, 2027
 - 3. July 22, 2027
 - d. ACPE Commonly Used Acronyms
21. Commissioner Closing Comments
- 22.* **4:00 P.M.** Adjournment
- *Suggested Motion: Move the Commission adjourn the October 15, 2026 Meeting of the Commission.*



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

A meeting of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), conducted via distance delivery, originated from the office of the Commission at 3030 Vintage Boulevard, Juneau, Alaska on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Chair Zugg called the meeting to order at approximately 8:32 A.M.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members present for all or portions of the meeting: Chair Trish Zugg, Vice-Chair John Brown, Commissioner John Bardsley, Representative Ashley Carrick, Commissioner Keith Hamilton, Regent Paula Harrison, Commissioner Kathryn McCollum, Regent Karen Perdue, Commissioner Brittany Williams.

Commission Members absent: Commissioner Donald Handeland and Senator Löki Tobin.

Commission Staff present for all or portions of the meeting: Executive Director Kerry Thomas, Director of Communications & Outreach Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Information Support Services Jamie Matheson, Program Manager Jackie Hall, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator Tyler Eggen, Assistant Attorney General Allison Baldock, Assistant Attorney General Helen Lober, Executive Secretary Marie Bates.

Presenters in attendance: University of Alaska's Vice-President and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Brian Smentkowski

Institutional representatives in attendance: Executive Director Mike Swanson, Board Chair Mark Swensen and Board Secretary Bill Severson with Amundsen Education Center; Executive Director Bryden Sweeney-Taylor and Chief Operating Officer Rachel Thomson with Outer Coast; Provost Andrew Gades and Institute of Health & Wellness Director Renee George with Alaska Pacific University; Dean of Academics Dr. Matthew Lindquist with Alaska Bible College.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Brown moved to adopt the July 23, 2026 meeting agenda. Commissioner Brittany Williams seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

Discussion: Commissioner Williams stated that the agenda incorrectly listed her as occupying the Community College seat. She clarified that she serves in the General Public seat, and the correction should be reflected in the record. Regents Harrison and Perdue requested the Board of Regents report be provided following Dr. Smentkowski's presentation, noting that they would be departing the meeting early and wished to delivery their report beforehand.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Brown moved to approve the minutes for the July 23, 2026 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

ETHIC DISCLOSURES

No potential violations were disclosed by Commission members relative to the adopted agenda.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public members were present. Chair Zugg closed the period for public testimony.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA UPDATE

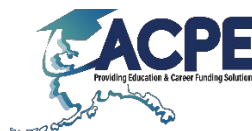
Dr. Smentkowski provided an update covering systemwide developments, student success initiatives, academic program trends, survey findings, and enrollment patterns at the University of Alaska (UA). The presentation included results from the Student Success Survey, which examined why students enroll, persist, and what barriers affect completion. Survey responses indicated that students primarily enroll based on location, affordability, and academic offerings, and remain due to affordability, support services, flexible course options, and program structures aligned with timely degree progression. UA is conducting additional analysis on student risk factors, including financial, family, and health-related barriers that may interrupt educational progress, and is reviewing academic sequencing to ensure courses are offered in alignment with student needs.

The update also described academic program clusters at both the two-year and four-year levels, showing strong student interest in Health and Human Services, applied trades, humanities, social sciences, and business/public administration. Graduation data reflected similar trends, with a significant portion of degrees awarded in Health and Human Services. Dr. Smentkowski outlined efforts to align academic offerings with both student demand and workforce needs, including continued review of program relevance and workforce preparation.

Dr. Smentkowski reported on several institutional initiatives, including the Alaska Native Success Initiative (ANSI), which is expanding outreach efforts to rural and Alaska Native communities and developing learning modules and mentoring structures to promote belonging and support student recruitment and retention. The Arctic Leadership Initiative was also highlighted, noting collaborative programming among undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and community partners focused on Arctic challenges through project-based learning and applied research.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion trends were reviewed, with Alaska showing the fastest growth rate in completions nationally. UA continues early-awareness outreach campaigns, including statewide mailings regarding Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and FAFSA, partnership efforts with ACPE, and targeted engagement with hard-to-reach communities.

Enrollment updates indicated modest increases in headcount and credit hour registration, with applications up over the prior year. UA expects to have clearer fall enrollment figures later in the calendar year. Leadership transitions were noted, including new appointments for the UA President and University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Chancellor, with interim leaders acknowledged for their



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

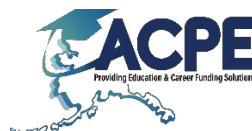
service. Dr. Smentkowski closed by reaffirming UA's commitment to recruitment, retention, and graduation as its highest priorities and thanked attendees for their support of Alaska's students.

Discussion: Commissioners reviewed graduation data across UA campuses and sought clarification regarding trends in four-year and graduate degree completion, including variations across institutions and the impact of program mix at University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). Commissioners requested additional context on changes in enrollment patterns over time, particularly the distribution of first-time freshmen in two-year and four-year programs and how these trends may translate to future degree conferrals. Dr. Smentkowski provided information on graduate-level education programs, including the proportion of graduate education degrees and the role of specialized programs such as the Master of Arts in Teaching. Commissioners also discussed curriculum flexibility, noting both its benefits for student persistence and the challenges students report in accessing required courses in preferred modalities. Additional interest was expressed in understanding outreach strategies used to engage students in remote areas and how survey participation reflected the full student population. Commissioners requested that future updates include information on military-connected student populations and their involvement in Arctic-focused initiatives, with follow-up planned for the next meeting.

FAFSA COMPLETION SURVEY

Director of Communications and Outreach Hillenbrand, provided an overview of the FAFSA Completion Survey and its findings. The presentation provided background on the purpose of the survey and emphasized the importance of FAFSA completion as the entry point for accessing federal, state, and institutional financial aid. The survey's context noted Alaska's long-standing position at or near the bottom nationally for FAFSA completion rates, reinforcing the need for a structured analysis of statewide challenges. Director Hillenbrand reviewed core FAFSA fundamentals, including its role in determining eligibility for a wide range of financial resources beyond federal loans, and explained that the survey was designed to gather reliable data directly from Alaskans to better understand obstacles to completion and areas where ACPE could expand operational support.

The survey was conducted by HRG and included responses from 800 Alaskans aged 18 to 55. From these responses, six top findings were identified. A significant awareness gap was found: although most respondents reported completing the FAFSA, less than half were aware of relevant deadlines or state-specific funding opportunities tied to the application. Multiple barriers were also identified, including uncertainty about affordability, confusion regarding instructions, and challenges collecting required documentation. Respondents indicated difficulty determining which parental information to provide and noted delays in the process that sometimes extended beyond a month. Additionally, the majority of respondents reported not receiving support or assistance completing the FAFSA, which correlated with lower completion rates. Analysis of survey data showed that information and support barriers were the strongest predictors of non-completion, suggesting that many respondents lacked clear guidance on what was required or how to access available help.



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

Based on these findings, HRG provided several recommendations focused on improving statewide FAFSA completion outcomes. These included developing coordinated awareness campaigns aligned with APS and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) priority deadlines, expanding publicity related to ACPE's FAFSA assistance resources, creating plain-language guidance materials, strengthening early outreach to high school students, and increasing collaboration with tribal and rural communities. ACPE has already begun implementing short-term updates to FAFSA support resources, particularly online content, and plans to continue updating materials as the redesigned FAFSA is released. Longer-term actions will include expanded communication campaigns, broader outreach through statewide advising networks, and adjustments to master the FAFSA trainings to better reflect identified statewide needs. ACPE anticipates that these combined efforts will improve FAFSA awareness, reduce common barriers, and support higher completion rates in future cycles.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed the FAFSA Completion Survey presentation, noting the value of conducting a third-party assessment to better understand where current outreach efforts are effective and where gaps persist. Commissioners highlighted the importance of one-on-one support in increasing FAFSA completion, including alignment with the Alaska Career Guide project, which provides individualized assistance in rural communities. Additional discussion focused on specific survey barriers, such as uncertainty about which parent's information to report, and interest was expressed in reviewing the underlying survey data in greater detail. Commissioners also noted that recent statewide initiatives, such as DEED's graduation guides, have contributed to increases in FAFSA submissions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Thomas provided an overview of fourth-quarter operations, noting the launch of new loan applications on May 1 and continued enhancements to the Alaska Student Aid Portal in preparation for the APS and AEG awarding cycle. She reported that ACPE's FY27 operating budget was approved with full funding for APS and AEG, though final eligibility data for the 2026 graduating class will determine whether available funds meet total demand. She also outlined implementation work related to House Bill 28, which establishes a three-year loan repayment pilot for teachers in high-need subject areas, with regulations required before applications can open.

The report included federal updates on Workforce Pell implementation and upcoming work to evaluate whether changes to federal graduate loan limits will require state-level adjustments. Executive Director Thomas highlighted ongoing strategic planning efforts, including a forthcoming three-year review of ACPE's current plan, and noted that ACPE loan rates remain significantly lower than private-market options. She concluded by addressing continued recruitment challenges across several key positions, which require internal workload adjustments to maintain program delivery and statutory responsibilities.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed staffing challenges noted in the Executive Director's report, including vacancies in key positions and the extended timelines associated with the state's hiring-approval process. Commissioners sought



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

clarification regarding recent separations and the duration of vacancies, and Executive Director Thomas explained that some responsibilities are being redistributed among senior management to maintain operations. The discussion also addressed the impact of statewide hiring freezes and multi-step approval requirements, which have resulted in delays of several months and contributed to instances where candidates withdrew during the recruitment process.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Zugg reported that the Executive Committee met on May 12, 2026, to evaluate Executive Director Thomas' performance and discuss a salary adjustment. Following that executive session, the committee approved a salary increase for Executive Director Thomas based on the information reviewed and reaffirmed the practice of conducting annual evaluations.

DETERMINE JULY 2027 MEETING DATE

Vice-Chair Brown moved that the Commission hold its Summer Quarterly meeting on July 22, 2027, 8:30 A.M. Regent Perdue seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Commissioner Anastacia Goecker, serving as the student representative, faithfully served on the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education from October 2025 through June 2026; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Alaska Bible College and Student Body President, Commissioner Anastacia Goecker brought thoughtful leadership, a strong sense of responsibility, and the perspective of Alaska's students to the Commission's work, enriching discussions on higher education; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Anastacia Goecker consistently demonstrated adaptability, a broad perspective, and a steadfast commitment to serving her community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her nine months of dedicated service, Commissioner Anastacia Goecker generously shared her time, insight and leadership while balancing her academic responsibilities, student leadership and service to the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and its staff hereby express their sincere appreciation to Commissioner Anastacia Goecker for her service and commitment to the Commission's mission and extend their gratitude and best wishes for her continued success in her education and future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Commissioner Anastacia Goecker with a copy to be incorporated in the official minutes of the July 23, 2026, meeting of the Commission.



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

Regent Perdue moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation as written for Anastacia Goecker. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION COMPLIANCE REPORT

Institutional Authorization (IA) Program Coordinator Eggen announced the Institutional Authorization Compliance and Activities Report is in the packet, summarizing quarterly activities related to institutional oversight, application reviews, and regulatory compliance.

INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Renewal of Authorization – Academy of Esthetics

The Academy of Aesthetics is requesting renewal of its authorization after receiving initial approval 18 months ago and gradually expanding its class sizes since then. The renewal application meets Alaska statutory requirements, as noted in the report. IA Program Coordinator Eggen recommends renewing the Academy's authorization for three years, through January 31, 2029, based on its oversight by both the Commission and the Alaska Board of Barbers and Hairdressers.

Vice-Chair Brown moved to renew Academy of Aesthetics' Authorization through July 31, 2029, based upon staff recommendations. Commissioner Bardsley seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

2. Renewal of Authorization – Amundsen Education Center

Amundsen's Education Center (AEC) is seeking a renewal of its authorization, following a one-year renewal last year that included consumer protection conditions due to the institution being found financially unsound. Over the past year, AEC enrolled five students, with two completing the program. A recent review by the Commission's third-party auditor again determined that AEC is financially unsound. IA Program Coordinator Eggen also identified violations in student record-keeping during the review period. As a result, Mr. Eggen recommended a two-year renewal through July 31, 2028, with multiple contingencies to ensure consumer protection and institutional improvement, including quarterly submission of unaudited financial statements and updated student account ledgers, distribution of financial soundness disclosures to students, maintaining current bonding levels, commissioning an independent financial soundness review for the next renewal, and submitting a corrective action plan for student record-keeping by August 6, 2026. These conditions are intended to support AEC's fiscal plan while ensuring continued consumer protections for students.

Representative Carrick moved to approve Amundsen Education Center's Authorization through July 31, 2028, based upon staff recommendations. Vice-Chair Brown seconded the motion. The motion was opened for discussion.

Commissioner McCollum moved to amend the motion by changing Amundsen Education Center's Authorization from two years to a one-year renewal. Regent Perdue



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The amendment carried.

The amended main motion to approve Amundsen Education Center's authorization through July 31, 2027, was then put to a roll call vote. All members present voted aye. The motion, as amended, carried.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed the proposed renewal of authorization for AEC and expressed differing views regarding the appropriate length of the renewal period given the institution's long-standing financial soundness concerns. Commissioners requested clarification on the consequences of failing to meet required contingencies, and IA Program Coordinator Eggen explained that unmet conditions would result in the institution returning to the Commission for further review and potential authorization action. Commissioners also inquired about AEC's 40% completion rate for the 2025–26 year. Executive Director Swanson reported that its programs serve highly marginalized populations who often enter training with limited work-readiness skills and significant personal barriers, and noted that three students did not complete the program due to violations related to substance use. Commissioners reviewed the historical precedent for one-year versus two-year renewals and discussed how a shorter renewal period could support closer monitoring. The amended motion to shorten the renewal period was viewed as providing an opportunity for additional oversight within a more immediate timeframe.

3. Renewal of Authorization – Outer Coast

Outer Coast applied for a renewal of authorization after recently graduating its first cohort of 13 students from its two-year program, many of whom intend to continue their education at four-year institutions. The school previously received a two-year authorization with conditions, and its compliance with those requirements, including coordination with the University of Alaska Southeast and communications with accrediting bodies, is documented in the packet. IA Program Coordinator Eggen reviewed this progress and recommended another two-year renewal through July 31, 2028. The recommendation includes several contingencies aimed at ensuring continued oversight and clear communication with the Commission. Outer Coast would be required to submit semiannual reports on curriculum developments and academic partnerships, provide syllabi for new courses, report on accreditation efforts, maintain an approved disclosure notice regarding credit transferability, include an executed memorandum of agreement with the University of Alaska Southeast in its next renewal application, and limit use of the term “college” to aspirational contexts. IA Program Coordinator Eggen noted that these conditions help ensure operational clarity, alignment with future agreements, and adequate consumer protections for students.

Chair Zugg moved to renew Outer Coast's Authorization through July 31, 2027 with an accelerated reporting requirement of an update by the January 2027 Commission meeting, based upon staff recommendations. Regent Perdue seconded the motion. The motion was opened for discussion.

Commissioner Hamilton moved to amend by changing Outer Coast's Authorization from two years to a one-year renewal. Commissioner McCollum seconded the motion. By roll call vote, eight members present voted aye, one member present voted nay. The amendment carried.



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

The amended main motion to approve Outer Coast's authorization through July 31, 2027, with a required update on accreditation pursuits by January 2027, was then put to a roll call vote. By roll call vote, eight members present voted aye, one member present voted nay. The motion, as amended, carried.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed concerns regarding Outer Coast's compliance with authorization requirements, particularly its communication practices, use of the term "college," and clarity around its academic offerings and institutional status. Regents emphasized the need for accurate representation to students and consistent adherence to ACPE directives. Outer Coast described its general education curriculum, approved through UAS faculty processes, and confirmed it does not represent itself as a college though it maintains long-term accreditation aspirations. UAS clarified its role in reviewing and transcribing eligible coursework and noted that ACPE compliance is essential for maintaining the partnership. Commissioners also discussed the need for clearer deadlines, stronger reporting on accreditation pursuits, and enforcement mechanisms should misrepresentations persist.

4. Amendment – Alaska Pacific University

The Commission reviewed Alaska Pacific University's (APU) request to amend its authorization to include two new academic programs: an Associate of Arts in Culture and Communications and a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies. Staff explained that both programs align with APU's updated mission and vision, which emphasize Alaska Native culture, community, and knowledge. The applications meet Alaska statutory requirements, and staff recommended approval contingent upon program endorsement by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Commissioner Hamilton moved to amend Alaska Pacific University's Authorization, based upon staff recommendations. Vice-Chair Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

5. Removal of disclaimer – Alaska Bible College

Alaska Bible College requested removal of a consumer protection disclaimer that was placed on its elementary education program in 2020, when graduates were not eligible for Alaska teacher licensure. The Commission reviewed updated documentation showing the college had taken the necessary steps to ensure its graduates now qualify for professional licensure. Based on this progress, staff recommended removing the disclaimer requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education program, and representatives were available to address any further questions.

Vice-Chair Brown moved to remove the Consumer Protection Disclaimer requirement, based upon staff recommendations. Commissioner McCollum seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS

- Finance – Chief Finance Officer position vacant, written report included in the packet
- Program Operations – Program Manager Hall presented quarterly highlights from the Program Operations Report, beginning with financial aid updates. She explained a change in loan volume reporting methodology to improve accuracy by tracking loans strictly within their originating program year. Loan activity remained largely stable across programs:



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

Supplemental Education Loans held steady in number with a slight increase in total dollars awarded; Family Education Loans grew modestly in volume and significantly in total dollars; and Refinance Education Loans matched prior-year counts but showed lower overall dollar amounts due to smaller average balances. Out-of-state attendance among borrowers continued to account for about 65% of loan usage. The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) saw notable growth, with participation rising from roughly 2,600 to over 3,400 students and total awards increasing by more than 27%. Program Manager Hall also reported on agency publications and regulatory work. The 2026 Higher Ed Almanac is nearing completion, and ACPE's annual regulatory reduction plan under Administrative Order 360 has been approved, though the public comment period will be delayed until later in the fall due to extended legal review. She concluded with cohort default rate updates, noting strong performance across ACPE's alternative education loans. The combined 2024 default rate fell to its lowest point in five years at 4.11%, with improvements in Supplemental Education Loan defaults and zero defaults in the Family Education Loan Program. A higher Refinance Education Loan default rate was attributed to a single borrower in a small cohort. Overall, cohort performance remains strong.

- Communications and Outreach – Director Hillenbrand reported that ACPE's outreach team connected with 185 Alaskans through individual or small-group sessions this quarter and reached nearly 500 more through 63 webinars and trainings. Year-to-date, total outreach engagement is just under 3,500 Alaskans. She highlighted strong growth in website usage, with more visitors returning to use tools and resources. Marketing efforts focused on FAFSA completion, the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and education funding options, including a refinance loan mailer sent to 14,000 Alaskans and large-scale email campaigns reaching over 84,000 people this quarter. Over the year, ACPE sent more than 292,000 emails promoting postsecondary and career funding opportunities.
- Information Support Services – Director Matheson reported that the division has implemented artificial intelligence training and updated internal policies around AI use, an initiative previously requested by Vice-Chair Brown. ISS is now using generative AI tools in the workplace while continuing to monitor their application. The division is also finalizing its 3–5-year ISS technical roadmap in partnership with Resource Data Incorporated, outlining strategic priorities and future system needs
- Human Resources – Included in the Executive Director's Report.

MISSION MOMENT

Executive Director Thomas shared two “mission moment” highlights from the past quarter. First, ACPE provided customized, one-on-one training for new financial aid staff at an Alaska college to ensure they could accurately support students using the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant programs. She noted this strengthened compliance, improved student guidance, and fostered positive relationships with institutional staff, making the extra effort worthwhile and something ACPE plans to continue when staffing changes occur. Second, she described a loan refinancing case involving a newly licensed doctor with about \$300,000 in student loan debt. Although the applicant was initially denied a \$250,000 refinance loan due to debt-to-income requirements, staff worked directly with them to help resubmit at the \$125,000 threshold



MINUTES OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION July 23, 2026

that relies only on credit score. The applicant was approved and is now saving over \$600 per month, illustrating how proactive outreach to denied applicants can meaningfully support borrowers and improve outcomes.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Commissioner Handeland was not present.
- UA Board of Regents – Regent Perdue presented earlier in the meeting and reported recent leadership transitions within the University of Alaska system, including the appointment of a new president and a new UAF chancellor, both bringing extensive institutional and relevant professional experience. She described expanded collaboration with military partners, including a plan for enlisted personnel to live on campus and participate in educational programming. The update also covered student-success initiatives focused on affordability, predictable multi-year cost information, and coordination with state financial aid programs. Regent Perdue highlighted the Alaska Unlocked pilot program to waive out-of-state tuition and noted that the Board will consider broader tuition differential changes in October. Additional updates addressed systemwide recruitment and retention efforts, fall enrollment expectations, and funding directed toward improving these activities across campuses.
- AK State Board of Education – Commissioner McCollum shared significant news that the U.S. Department of Labor granted permanent approval for Alaska’s Educator Registered Apprenticeship Program on July 13th. The program, which began with only five apprentices in 2025, now has 96 apprentices enrolled for fall 2026 across K–12, special education, and principal preparation pathways.
- Community Colleges – N/A
- Student Representative – N/A
- Alaska Workforce Investment Board – Chair Zugg reported on the Workforce Investment Board’s recent activities, noting that its May meeting was held on-site at AVTEC in Seward, where board members attended graduation, an energizing reminder of the impact of workforce programs. She shared that much of the board’s recent work has focused on reviewing Alaska STEP and WIOA grant applications, which make up a substantial portion of its responsibilities. Looking ahead, she highlighted an upcoming report connected to the potential development of an Alaska LNG gas line, including anticipated workforce needs should the project advance. The report is currently under board review and will be made public later.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Trish Zugg thanked commissioners for their flexibility in navigating an abbreviated meeting that ultimately ran a few minutes long. She noted that while shorter meetings offer the welcome benefit of giving everyone part of their day back, the Commission’s discussion, especially around institutional authorization, was important and deserved the extra time. She expressed appreciation for commissioners’ engagement and willingness to let those conversations unfold fully.



**MINUTES OF THE
ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
July 23, 2026**

ADJOURN

Vice-Chair Brown moved to adjourn the July 23, 2026 Meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all members present voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 P.M.

Approved by:

Chair Trish Zugg

Date

Committee Appointments

■ Institutional Standards and Evaluation

- Brittany Williams
- Kathryn McCollum
- Paula Harrison
- Trish Zugg, Chair
- John Brown, Vice Chair

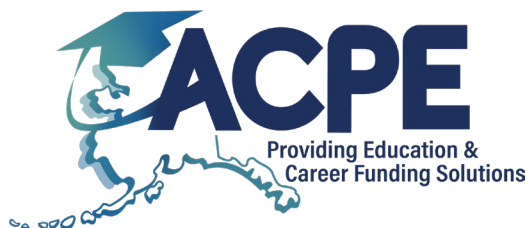
■ Internal Audit

- Brittany Williams
- Trish Zugg, ACPE Chair
- Donald Handeland, ASLC Chair
- Kerry Thomas, Executive Director, Ex-Officio Member

■ Executive Committee

- Keith Hamilton
- Karen Perdue
- Trish Zugg, Chair
- John Brown, Vice Chair
- Kerry Thomas, Executive Director, Ex-Officio Member





Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Toll Free: (800) 441-2962
In Juneau: (907) 465-2962
TTY: Dial 711 or (800) 770-8973
Fax: (907) 465-5316
acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
FROM: Kerry Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: October 8, 2026
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

This quarter, the Commission focused on implementing the Teacher Education Loan Repayment Pilot Program created by the Legislature in 2026, completing the annual process to award and disburse Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) funds to students, and continuing efforts to reduce regulations under Administrative Order 360. The Alaska Higher Education Almanac was also published during the quarter.

Legislative Session

ACPE's FY2028 operating budget request was submitted this quarter and will remain confidential until the Governor releases his budget in December.

The FY2027 approved budget includes 100% of the available funding from the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) for APS and AEG, totaling \$20.3 million and \$10.2 million, respectively. Since the implementation of HB 28 in 2024, which made changes to improve the APS program, there have been year-over-year increases in both eligibility and awards. As a result, program costs have also continued to increase.

I expect HEIF funding, as well as funding for APS and AEG, to be topics of interest during the upcoming legislative session.

Federal Update

Implementation of Workforce Pell in Alaska continues, with ACPE supporting the work as the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) and the Governor's Office develop the approval framework for eligible programs.

In September 2026, Governor Dunleavy delegated his authority to approve programs to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The Workforce Pell implementation team plans to share a draft approval framework with stakeholders over the next month. After stakeholder feedback is reviewed and addressed, AWIB will approve the framework.

Once the framework is in place, postsecondary institutions will be able to submit eligible programs to AWIB for approval. Updates will be provided to the Commission as this work moves forward over the coming months.

Strategic Planning

ACPE's 2024–2026 strategic plan has been in place for nearly three years, and there have been many significant accomplishments during that time. With a change in administration pending and several strategic initiatives still underway or not yet started, I recommend extending the current strategic plan by one year.

Over the next year, we will complete the remaining items in the current plan and develop a new five-year strategic plan. The proposed 2028–2032 strategic plan will be presented to the Commission for approval at the October 2027 meeting.

The quarterly dashboard was also updated to reflect annual data as of June 30, 2026, and to compare results with the targets established one year ago.

Alaska Student Loan Corporation Meeting

The Alaska Student Loan Corporation will meet on November 5, 2026, to review its annual audited financial statements and determine whether a dividend will be returned to the State of Alaska.

Professional Organization Meetings and Presentations

Over the past quarter, I participated in a number of meetings and presentations related to higher education and federal policy changes. These included:

- Weekly meetings with the Department of Education & Early Development Director's team
- Biweekly meetings with University of Alaska Statewide leadership
- Monthly Alaska Statewide Education Leaders meetings, facilitated by the Alaska Council of School Administrators
- Monthly meetings with the Education Finance Council (EFC)
- Federal update meetings hosted by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)
- Alaska Workforce Convening, October 7–8, 2026, in Anchorage

Human Resources Update:

Governor Dunleavy rescinded Administrative Order 358 in September 2026, which had placed restrictions on hiring, travel, and regulations. This removes some of the restrictions and external approvals that had been required for ACPE recruiting and travel.

A significant staffing accomplishment this quarter was the successful recruitment of a Director of Program Operations. Lisa Benson joined the Program Operations Division as Director.

Separations this quarter include Stephan Felkl, Business Analyst Officer for the Information Support Services Unit. Stephan retired on September 30, 2026, after 30 years of service to the State of Alaska and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

ACPE has a total of 50 Position Control Numbers (PCNs), with 12 located in Anchorage and 38 in Juneau. Currently, 40 positions are filled, with 9 in Anchorage and 31 in Juneau.

The distribution of filled positions by division is as follows:

- Information Systems and Services (ISS): 7 (2 in Anchorage and 5 in Juneau)
- Finance: 10 (8 full-time and 2 part-time) (1 in Anchorage and 9 in Juneau)
- Program Operations: 14
- Outreach: 6
- Executive Office: 3

There are currently 10 vacant positions:

- ISS: 2
- Finance: 4
- Program Operations: 2
- Outreach: 2

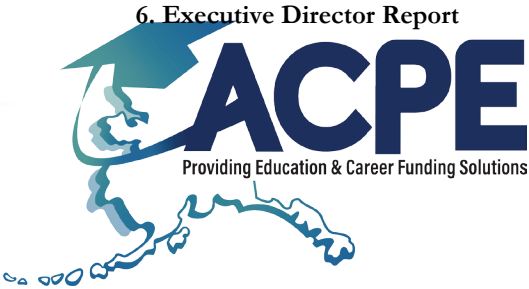
ACPE's workforce consists of 25 females (62.5%) and 15 males (37.5%), compared to the statewide workforce distribution of 7,185 females (48.4%) and 7,659 males (51.6%).

The average age of ACPE employees is 45.5 years, slightly higher than the statewide average of 43.5 years.

Racial and ethnic demographics for ACPE are 80% white and 20% minority employees, compared to the statewide composition of 72.1% white and 27.9% minorities. See the [State of Alaska Workforce Profile FY25](#) for additional details.

Attachments:

ACPE KPI Dashboard – Q4 FY2026
Press Release – 2026 Alaska Higher Education Almanac



Key Performance Indicator (KPI) DASHBOARD

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Dashboard Key

- Measurable Target
- Current Status

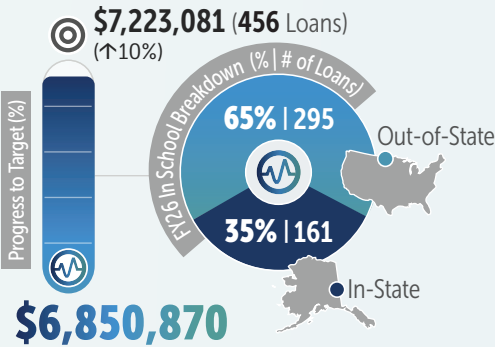
- P1** Become the education lender of choice in Alaska and for Alaskans.
KPI 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- P2** Increase access to, and utilization of federal and state education funding sources.
KPI 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- P3** Operate a sustainable organization responsive to students, customers, stakeholders, and employees.
KPI 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
- P4** Position ACPE to help bridge the gap in Alaska's current and future workforce needs.
KPI 5, 15

Strategic priorities are achieved by meeting the seven goals. Progress towards meeting each goal is measured by the KPIs.
*Target values based on FY25 totals (data from 7/1/24 to 6/30/25, unless otherwise indicated). Current statuses reflect data from 4/1/26 to 6/30/26.

GOAL #1: Offer loan program responsive to consumer and organization needs

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P1** **P2** **P3**

KPI-1 Loan volume:
In school (ASEL + FEL)
Target based on FY25 total: \$6,566,437 (455 loans)



Refinance (REFI)
Target based on FY25 total: \$1,708,554 (27 loans)

31 Loans: \$1,793,982 (↑5%)

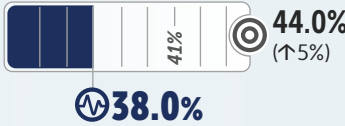
\$2,052,800

GOAL #2: Increase visibility, understanding and awareness of ACPE and its products, resources, partnerships, and programs

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P1** **P2** **P3** **P4**

KPI-1 SEE GOAL #1

KPI-2 Alaska loan market share: Based on annual in school loan originations
Target based on FY25 total: 41.5% AYTD

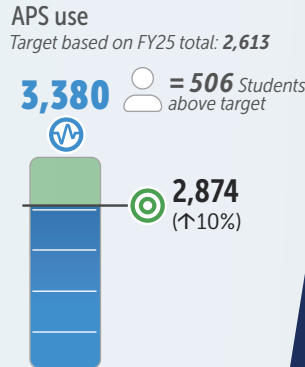
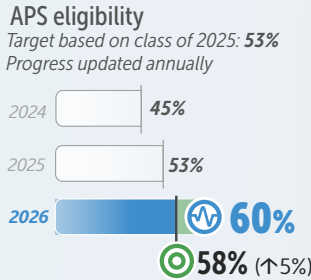


KPI-3 FAFSA completion trends: Target based on FY25 total: 31,271



KPI-4 SEE GOAL #7

KPI-5 Trends in APS:



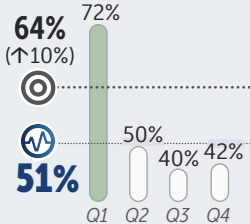
GOAL #3: Enhance & refine financial planning resources for appropriate target audiences

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P1** **P2**

KPI-6 Utilization of financial planning resources: Constant Contact usage
Target based on FY25 total: 227,581 Emails Sent



KPI-7 Utilization of financial planning resources: Open rate of content sent
Target based on FY25 total: 58%. Current status resets quarterly.



CHANGE TOWARDS TARGET:

- ↑
-
- ↓

2025-26 PROGRESS	DATE			
	9.30.25	12.31.25	3.31.26	6.30.26
Strategic Priority #1	—	↑	↑	—
Strategic Priority #2	—	↑	↑	—
Strategic Priority #3	—	↑	↑	—
Strategic Priority #4	NA	NA	NA	NA

- Measurable Target
- Current Status



Key Performance Indicator (KPI) DASHBOARD

*Target values based on FY25 totals (data from 7/1/24 to 6/30/25, unless otherwise indicated). Current statuses reflect data from 4/1/26 to 6/30/26.

GOAL #4: Modernize and streamline the customer experience

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P1** **P2** **P3**

KPI-8 Trends in application funnel:

Incomplete applications new info coming FY2027

Submitted applications new info coming FY2027

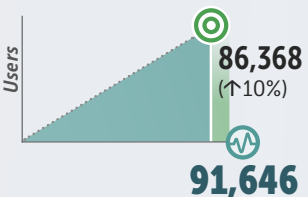
Disbursed loans new info coming FY2027

KPI-9 new info coming FY2027

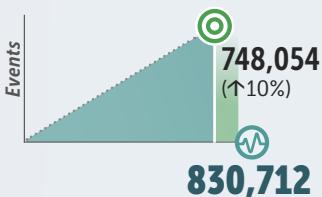
Trends in customer satisfaction ratings:

KPI-10 Trends in website engagement:

Number of users
Target values based on FY25 total: 78,516



Number of web events
Target values based on FY25 total: 680,049

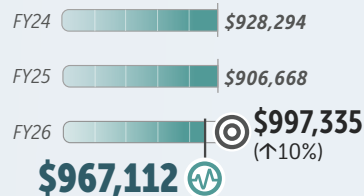


GOAL #5: Improve operational efficiency and financial sustainability of the organization

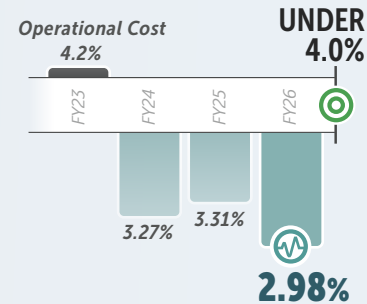
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P1** **P2** **P3**

KPI-1 SEE GOAL #1

KPI-11 Non ASLC funding sources:
Target based on FY24 total, \$906,668.
Progress updated annually.



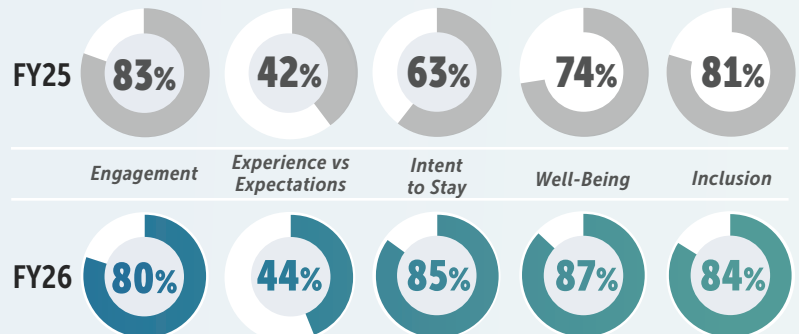
KPI-12 Operational cost as an established percentage of income generating assets:
Target value based on FY23 total: 4.2%
Progress updated annually



GOAL #6: Foster an environment where employees thrive as the agency evolves

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P3**

KPI-13 Trends in employee satisfaction ratings:
Progress updated annually



GOAL #7: Identify the current state of higher education programs and resources in Alaska

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MET: **P4**

KPI-14 Complete inventory:

new info coming FY2027

new info coming FY2027

KPI-15 Tangible commitments:

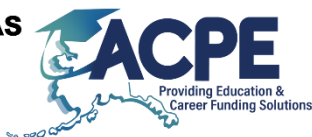
new info coming FY2027

new info coming FY2027

ACPE PRESS RELEASE

KERRY THOMAS
Executive Director

907-465-6740
acpe.alaska.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 27, 2026

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION RELEASES 2026 ALASKA HIGHER EDUCATION ALMANAC

Juneau – The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) is pleased to announce the release of the 2026 Alaska Higher Education Almanac. In its ninth year, the Almanac provides Alaska’s education stakeholders and policymakers relevant, meaningful data to inform and enhance educational and workforce opportunities.

Highlights from the 2026 Almanac include:

- ACPE’s education loan solutions save Alaskans up to \$56,500 in interest compared to private, for-profit lenders
- Combined, the Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Performance Scholarship, have awarded eligible students over \$230,000,000 since inception in 2006
- Alaska postsecondary enrollments rose by over 400 students a second year in a row, for a total of 32,562 undergraduate enrollments
- Alaska students are 8 times less likely to be impoverished with a bachelor’s degree

The 2026 Alaska Higher Education Almanac is available on ACPE’s website at acpe.alaska.gov/reports.

ABOUT THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:

Funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation, ACPE champions individuals and families through broad access to federal and state programs, grants, scholarships, and loans together with the tools and resources that allow them to make informed decisions about funding their education. As the Higher Education Agency for the State of Alaska, ACPE advances policy and fosters collaboration to build a skilled workforce that meets the needs of communities and employers, supporting economic development across the state.

ACPE PROVIDES EDUCATION AND CAREER FUNDING SOLUTIONS.

###



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ACPE UPDATE

UA Vice President Brian Smentkowski | 10.15.2026

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

- At about 6 weeks into the new academic year, the estimated enrollment for Fall is expected to see 20,494 students registered for 186,572 student credit hours, indicating a slightly stronger course-taking intensity among all students.
- At the top of the funnel, applications increased 14% from Fall 2025, and accepted applicants increased 28%.
- Applications and admissions are up, and we are concentrating our efforts on conversion to enrollment, and from enrollment to commencement.
- All three universities have doubled down on retention efforts.

OUR CORE COMMITMENT:

RECRUITMENT → RETENTION → COMMENCEMENT

- Through our **Systemwide Attainment Framework**, we are linking action → traction → impact and *coming together to move forward*. Highlights include:
 - **UAS's** Alaska Unlocked has resulted in an 18% increase in out of state applications, a 43% surge in admittances, and a 33% gain in newly enrolled students. UAS has also undertaken a novel “Welcoming Gateways” experience to improve retention.
 - **UAF's** dedicated advisor initiative has increased the number of dedicated advisors from 10% to 90%, with almost 90% of students satisfied with their advising experience. Retention is up at every interval.
 - **UAA** has concentrated on retention and identified the student groups facing the steepest persistence challenges and has, among other initiatives, launched a successful Course Redesign program that has significantly increased the pass rate in high DFW classes.
- Faculty and staff at all three universities have come together to advance SAF goal attainment through UAA's Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, UAF's Persistence Team, and UAS's Advising Excellence Committee.
- On the horizon: how our SAF can serve as a Unified Strategic Enrollment Plan.



DEEPER DATA DIVES --AND ACTIONS



University
(All) ▼

Class Standing
(All) ▼

Full / Part Time
(All) ▼

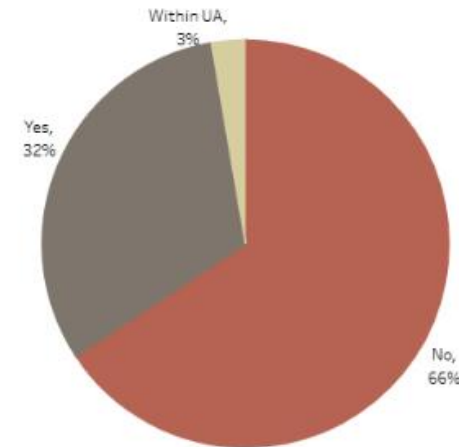
Course Delivery
(All) ▼

Degree Type
(All) ▼

Age (Group)
(All) ▼

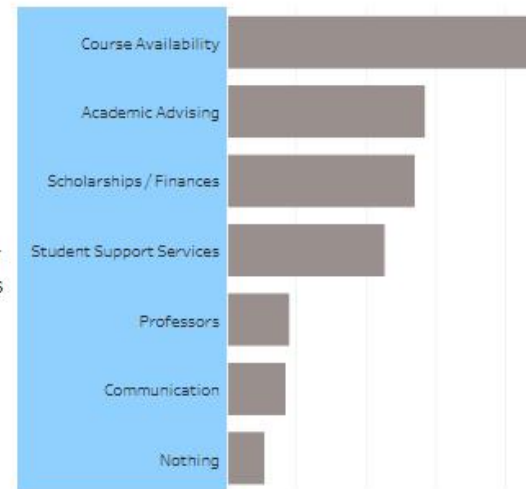
Q6 - Have you ever considered leaving or transferring to another university?

Note: Answers that indicated a transfer within UA are noted as such.



Q12 - What can we do to better support your success and ability to graduate on time?

Note: Textual analysis conducted looking for keywords and themes. Where multiple items were identified, categorization was based on the first item. Students who indicated "Nothing" were excluded.



FROM INSIGHT TO ACTION

FALL 2026 STUDENT SUCCESS SUMMIT

2026
STUDENT SUCCESS SUMMIT



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
9AM-12PM ON ZOOM

REGISTER VIA THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#)



Faculty, students, and staff from across the UA system will participate in a new tradition: the First Annual Student Success Summit.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

It's all about connections...



Kate Hildebrand has been invited to participate on a small UA work team focused on increasing FAFSA completion rates and awareness and use of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS).

Brian and Bridget recently presented to the **Alaska Superintendents Association** in Valdez, focusing on FAFSA completion and APS/AEG awareness and utilization and building/strengthening relationships with district leaders from across the state.

UA has been selected to present at the **Alaska School Boards Association** conference in **November** on similar topics. We have invited Kate Hildebrand to join us, along with Taw Lindsey, the recently announced Alaska Superintendent of the Year from Annette Island School District

Through our **Registered Apprenticeship Programs** and other **Grow Your Own** efforts, district partnerships have become key to teacher recruitment and retention across the state.

Last week, ACEC held its annual **ACEC Fall Summit**, to explore and strengthen ideas, opportunities, and innovations to improve education at the University of Alaska and for the State of Alaska.

TUITION TRANSPARENCY:

INCREASING CLARITY, EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

- This year marked the launch of UAS's **Alaska Unlocked** campaign and the start of a system-wide effort to do the same for all students at all universities.
- Because “clarity keeps students”, we are removing barriers in billing and considering novel strategies to attract, inform, recruit, and retain students.



SUCCESS IN THE MAKING

- President **Matt Cooper** is officially the University of Alaska's 18th President (this number includes interim leadership, including Michelle Rizk, who helped facilitate the transition "from Pat to Matt"). His commitment to collaboration across the system has already had a marked impact.
- **Russ Vander Lugt** began his tenure as the 12th Chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks on September 8, 2026.
- **John Latini** has gone above and beyond as Executive Director of Federal Relations, securing the reversal of 29 major grant terminations or freezes totaling \$86.2 million. Presently, no frozen or delayed grants.



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA



THANK YOU!

MORNING BREAK

Please remain logged in and keep your line muted during the break. The meeting will resume in 15 minutes.



LUNCH BREAK

The meeting will resume in 1 hour.





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Main: 907.465.6741
Toll free: 800.441.2962
TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Members
THROUGH: Kerry Thomas, Executive Director
FROM: Tyler Eggen, Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator
DATE: September 21, 2026
RE: Compliance and Activities Report

Quarter Applications

Renewal of Authorization

Generations Southeast Community Learning Center

Program Amendments

Charter College

Exemptions

Institutions qualifying for Exemption from Authorization as of the report date for the quarter.

Location	Certifications this Quarter
Alaska	4
Out-of-State	12

Administrative Approvals

Alaska Bible College

- Review and approve program length changes to its Certificate in Bible Studies program.

Alaska Institute of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture, and Massage Therapy

- Review and approve curriculum changes to its Massage Therapy program.

Alaska Pacific University

- Review and approve the change in senior management application for Dr. Andrew Gades to serve as the new Provost.

Center for Employment Education

- Review and approve the change in senior management application for Cheri Lipps to serve as the new Director of Operations & Organizational Development.

Institute of Massage Fairbanks

- Review and approve the changes to policies found in the catalog.

Northern Industrial Training

- Review and approve short course of study programming changes.

Institutional Authorization Monitoring & Activities

The State of Alaska Department of Military and Veteran Affairs withdrew approval of **Alaska Career College** (College) to allow veterans and other eligible persons the use of education funding benefits at the institution. Due to federal regulations, this triggering event required the College to notify the U.S. Department of Education (Department). The Department reviewed the impact on the institution's finances and has requested the College provide financial protections for continued participation in Title IV programs. The College is still eligible to participate in Title IV Programs. The College's next Renewal of Authorization will be at the January 2027 meeting.

This quarter, **Charter College** received a five-year renewal of accreditation from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, as well as programmatic accreditation of its Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

The [State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)](#) provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for institutions to obtain approval to provide interstate distance education, eliminating the need to apply to each state individually. SARA is operated by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) in partnership with four regional compacts. Alaska is a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and Commission staff serves on the WICHE-SARA (W-SARA) Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

Commission staff approved the renewal of the SARA membership applications for Ilisagvik College, University of Alaska Anchorage, and University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This quarter, Commission staff attended an in-person SARA State Portal Entity Annual Conference with 43 states represented to discuss the Federal regulatory landscape and the policy modification process, along with other topics. SARA has reimbursed a portion of the travel expenses for the trip.

Complaints

When complaints arise, our regulatory complaint procedure requires students to attempt to resolve matters with their Institution through the Institution's grievance policy. Generally, a resolution is reached at this point. However, if a resolution cannot be reached, the student may file a formal written complaint with the Commission.

This quarter, Commission staff received five informal complaints. The first was not eligible for submission to the Commission, as the Commission does not have legal purview over the nature of the complaint. The student was provided an alternative pathway to seek resolution through a different state agency.

The Commission directed the second complainant back to their institution to complete the institutional grievance process, as is required by Commission regulations.

The third complainant requested information and had questions about the ACPE complaint process and other avenues to submit a complaint.

The fourth complainant was provided with the Commission's formal complaint form and was given more information about the complaint process.

The last complaint was related to the University of Alaska and the individual was directed to University resources for resolving the complaint.

Institutional Authorization Fines and Fees

When & How They Apply

Tyler Eggen

Institutional Authorization Program Coordinator

October 15, 2026



Types of Fines and Fees

- Late Fee
- Revocation, Suspension, or other Sanction
- Student Complaints
- Civil Penalty
- Criminal Violation



Late Fee

A \$250.00 late fee may be assessed if the institution fails to meet an assigned deadline for:

- Initial Authorization to Operate
- Renewal of Authorization to Operate
- Annual Reporting

Late Fee Appeal Process:

- Appeal to ACPE's Executive Director
- After Executive Director decision, may appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)



Revocation, Suspension, or other Sanction

Authorization may be revoked, suspended, or conditioned if the Commission has reasonable cause to believe the institution violated ACPE Statutes or Regulations.

Fee Assessment if violation occurred:

- \$5,000 to cover the costs of investigating and adjudicating the matter
- The institution may appeal this decision to OAH



Student Complaints

After a complaint is investigated and mediated without a resolution, if an institution has violated a statute or regulation, Commission staff may:

- Require an institution to cease and desist from an act or practice;
- Award the individual or class of individuals full or partial restitution for damage or loss;
- Impose a civil penalty;
- Assess a civil fine, not to exceed \$5,000, for the costs of investigation and adjudicating the complaint;
- Begin action to revoke an institution's authorization.

The institution may appeal this decision to OAH.



Civil Penalty

An institution that violates ACPE statutes or regulations, or fails to deposit student records as required by law, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation.

- Each day's failure to comply constitutes a separate violation
- Imposed by the Commission via OAH or Court System



Criminal Penalty

If an institution violates ACPE statutes or regulations, or fails to deposit student records, and is convicted in a court of law, they are punishable:

- By a fine of no more than \$1,000,
- Imprisonment for not more than six months, or
- Both

Each day of noncompliance is a separate violation.



Importance of Imposing Fines & Fees

The issuance of fines and fees may:

- Provide financial compensation to students
- Offset staff time costs
- Prevent future violations



Resources & Questions

Commissioner Guide for Institutional Authorization Motions & Actions

Commissioners may take action on applications for Initial Authorization, Renewal of Authorization, and Amendments to Authorization, Agent Applications, and Special Actions. The following actions may be taken during a Commission meeting by carrying the staff recommendation, making a motion to amend the staff recommendation, or a new motion that differs from the staff recommendation:

Action	Duration	Circumstances	Statute/Regulation
Initial Authorization ¹	Up to 18 months	See below for Staff Recommendations	AS 14.48.070(d) 20 AAC 17.020(f)
Renewal of Authorization	Up to 5 years	See below for Staff Recommendations	AS 14.48.070(d) 20 AAC 17.025(g)

Citations:

Late Fees (20 AAC 17.055(6)), Revocation, Suspension, other Sanctions (AS 14.48.120), Student Complaints (AS 14.48.130), Civil Penalty (AS 14.48.190), Criminal Penalty (AS 14.48.200)





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Main: 907.465.6741
Toll free: 800.441.2962
TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
acpe.alaska.gov

Commissioner Guide for Institutional Authorization Motions & Actions

Commissioners may take action on applications for Initial Authorization, Renewal of Authorization, and Amendments to Authorization, Agent Applications, and Special Actions. The following actions may be taken during a Commission meeting by carrying the staff recommendation, making a motion to amend the staff recommendation, or a new motion that differs from the staff recommendation:

Action	Duration	Circumstances	Statute/Regulation
Initial Authorization ¹	Up to 18 months	See below for Staff Recommendations	AS 14.48.070(d) 20 AAC 17.020(f)
Renewal of Authorization	Up to 5 years	See below for Staff Recommendations	AS 14.48.070(d) 20 AAC 17.025(g)
Deferral of Action ²	One Commission quarter	Initial - Cannot begin operations Renewal - May only operate under an approved teach-out plan until the Commission authorizes the renewal. Program Amendment - Cannot enroll students Location Amendment - Cannot operate in new location	AS 14.48.070(g) 20 AAC 17.020
Conditional Authorization to New Institution	Up to Commission's discretion	If institution meets most requirements and likely to meet others by specific deadline	AS 14.48.070(g) AS 14.48.120 20 AAC 17.125
Conditional Authorization to Existing Institution	Up to Commission's discretion	Ensure compliance and likely to meet the requirements set forth by the Commission	AS 14.48.070(g) AS 14.48.120 20 AAC 17.125
Suspension of Authorization	Up to Commission's discretion	Institution agrees to and meets Commission's terms to operate	AS 14.48.120 20 AAC 17.125
Revocation of Authorization		Occurs mid-Authorization cycle if violating AS 14.48, conditions set by Commission, and unlikely to meet compliance	AS 14.48.120 20 AAC 17.125
Denial of Authorization		Application substantially out of compliance and unlikely to meet standards	AS 14.48.110 20 AAC 17.020 20 AAC 17.025

¹ Statute states “The term for which an initial authorization is given may not exceed two years, and may be issued for a lesser period of time. A subsequent authorization may be issued for a period up to five years.” Regulations state “...The initial authorization period may not exceed 18 months.”

² For Initial Authorization, Commission staff may defer an incomplete application to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting if the institution fails to provide the information necessary to complete an application on or before the deadline set by the Commission staff.

Guidelines for Staff Recommendations of Institutional Authorization Periods:

Initial and Renewal of Authorization applications (up to three years):

1. Timely and complete application submission.
2. Evidence of ongoing financial and administrative health.
3. No instances of violation of Authorization requirements during the most recent Authorization period.
4. Good standing with governing agencies.
5. Previous Commission precedent when taking action.

Renewal of Authorization applications (up to five years).

1. Meets all requirements above.
2. Accreditation in good standing with a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;
3. Institutional Title IV participation in good standing, including absence of a high-risk default rate (if the institution participates in Title IV);
4. Institutional Alaska Student Loan (ASL) participation in good standing, including absence of a high-risk default rate (if the institution participates in the ASL Programs); and
5. Annual evidence of ongoing financial and administrative health, as documented in annual reports to the accrediting agency or other Commission-approved reports.

Possible Grounds for Conditioning, Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Authorization:

1. Violates a provision of AS 14.48 or a regulation adopted by the Commission.
2. Furnishes false, misleading, or incomplete information to the Commission, or fails to furnish information requested by the Commission.
3. Violates a commitment made in an application for a request for Authorization to operate an institution.
4. If any person employed by the school who signed an application entered a plea of nolo contendere or has been found guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude.
5. Presenting to prospective students information relating to the school, or to the employment opportunities or opportunities for enrollment in institutions of higher learning after entering into or completing courses offered by the school, which is false, misleading, or fraudulent.

6. Failure to provide or maintain the premise or equipment in a safe and sanitary condition as required by laws, regulations, or ordinances applicable at the location of the school.
7. Refusal or failure by an agent to display his/her permit upon demand of a prospective student, the Commission or its representative, or any other interested person.
8. Failure to maintain financial resources adequate for the satisfactory conduct of the courses or instruction offered or to retain a sufficient and qualified instructional and administrative staff.
9. Conduct of instruction in a course or field which has not been approved by the Commission for the school.
10. Where the registrant has been convicted of any crime, an essential element of which is dishonesty, or has been convicted in this or another State of any crime which under the laws of any State or the United States is a felony, if the Commission determines, after investigation, that such a person has not been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust.
11. Paying a commission to valuable consideration to any person for acts or services performed in violation of AS 14.48.
12. Attempting to confer or conferring a fraudulent degree upon a student.
13. Attempting to conduct or employ or actually employing students in a commercial activity in conjunction with the operation of the school except to the extent that practical experience is essential to their training.
14. Misrepresenting to students or prospective students that they are qualified upon completion of any course for admissions to professional examinations under any occupational licensing statutory requirement.
15. Encouraging a student to enroll in courses of study when the institution knows that the student has not attained the prerequisite course, credit, experience or skill.
16. Enrolling a student when it is reasonably obvious that the student is unlikely to successfully complete a program or is unlikely to qualify for employment in the field.
17. The arbitrary partitioning of a program into shorter classes or components for the purpose of circumventing the authorization requirements of AS 14.48 and this chapter.

Possible Conditions to be Included in Commission Action:

1. Student Admission- Limit or restrict the number of students enrolling.
2. Cease and Desist- From an act or practice that violates AS 14.48 or regulations.
3. Consumer Protection- Require teach-out plans or teach-out agreements, disclosures for student signatures, public notifications, and increased surety bonding.
4. Educational Quality- Require additional reviews of materials content, placing restrictions on the student-to-faculty ratio, and staff and faculty qualifications.
5. Finances- Increase financial monitoring, limit charges set by the institution.
6. Fines- Assigning fines (see below) and late fees.
7. Institutional Infrastructure- Include additional oversight regarding facilities, student resources, and the governing board.
8. Safety- Require additional safety measures.

Possible Fines and Penalties

1. An Authorization to operate or an Agent's Permit may be revoked, suspended, or conditioned if the Commission has reasonable cause to believe that the holder of the Authorization or Permit has violated Commission statutes or regulations. The Commission may assess a civil fine, not to exceed \$5,000, for costs of investigating and adjussing a matter if the Commission finds a violation occurred.
2. The Commission may assess a civil fine, not to exceed \$5,000, for costs of investigating a complaint if the Commission finds that a violation has occurred.
3. A person who violates the provisions of AS 14.48.020 or who fails or refuses to deposit with the Commission the records required by AS 14.48.150 is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each day's failure to comply with the provisions of AS 14.48.020 and 14.48.150 constitutes a separate violation. The fine may be imposed by the Commission in an administrative proceeding or by a court of competent jurisdiction.
4. A person who violates the provisions of AS 14.48.020 or who fails or refuses to deposit with the Commission the records required by AS 14.48.150 is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each day's failure to comply with the provisions of AS 14.48.020 and 14.48.150 constitutes a separate violation. The fine may be imposed by the Commission in an administrative proceeding or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Possible Institutional Responses to Commission Action for Conditioning, Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Authorization:

1. Agrees to the terms of Commission action
2. Appeals the action with the State of Alaska, Office of Administrative Hearings
3. Submits a new application for Authorization or an Amendment of Authorization

Created August 2025, Edited September 2026



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Main: 907.465.6740
Toll free: 800.441.2962
TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
acpe.alaska.gov

Staff Report Generations Southeast Community Learning Center Renewal of Authorization

Summary

Generations Southeast Community Learning Center (GSCLC) is a component of and operated by the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). Historically, GSCLC offered Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class "A" Training in Juneau and short courses of study in online vocational certifications (Flagger, HAZWOPER). In 2024, GSCLC added a location in Klawock.

Chief Administrator	Charles Edwardson, Generations Southeast Director	Financial Statements	Financially Sound
Address	3239 Hospital Dr. Juneau AK 99801 6565 Boundary Rd. Klawock, AK 99925	FY25 Tuition Revenues	\$198,550
		Enrollment Data	407
Year Founded	1996	Complaints since the last Authorization	0
Authorized Since	1997	Surety Amount/Type	\$60,000/Bond

GSCLC Programs

Program name	Program length	Cost
Child Development Associate Certificate	600 hrs	\$4,000
Carpentry Fundamentals	270 hrs	\$3,000
Pro Truck Driver 160 Hour	160 hrs	\$15,000
Early Childhood Leadership	120 hrs	\$5,000

Office Administration: Basics	95 hrs	\$3,000
Beginning Welding	60 hrs	\$600
40-Hour HAZWOPER	40 hrs	\$400
Community Emergency Response Team	24 hrs	Free
Wilderness First Aid	16 hrs	\$300
8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Certification	8 hrs	\$125
Food Protection Exam Proctoring	8 hrs	\$80
First Aid, CPR, AED Certification	6 hrs	\$50
Online Flagger Certification	6 hrs	\$165
Financial Literacy	4 hrs	\$300
Customer Service	3 hrs	\$175

Updates since Most Recent Renewal of Authorization

At the October 2024 Commission meeting, the Commission renewed GSCLC's Authorization for two years. Since the summer of 2024, GSCLC has also received funding through the Alaska Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP), which it uses to allow students to enroll in several vocational courses for free. In early 2025, GSCLC ended its partnership with Penn Foster, under which students could enroll in Penn Foster programs and receive support at the GSCLC campus. In 2026, GSCLC ended its partnership with Northern Industrial Training, which provided support to offer the Administrative Assistant courses and the Commercial Truck Driving program.

Over the last few years, GSCLC has received support to offer a variety of short-term programming based on CCTHITA needs and funding, and to begin standing up GSCLC programs without partnerships, including its own Administrative Assistant courses. In the future, GSCLC plans to break ground on a housing complex in Klawock, hire a CDL instructor to offer Commercial Truck Driving, and introduce new programs to meet regional and statewide industry needs, including an Advanced Welding program to support its partnership with JAG Marine Group, the new operator of the Ketchikan Shipyard.

Annual Report 2025 Data

Program Name	Number of Students	Completion Rate	Placement Rate
Child Development Associate	24	77%	100% ¹
Administrative Assistant Level One ²	8	100%	100%
Administrative Assistant Level Two ²	2	100%	100%

¹ Some students were already employed at the time of enrollment.

²Program offered through Northern Industrial Training Partnership

Materials Review, Recent Site Visits, & Student Experience Survey

This quarter, Commission staff received some responses from GSCLC promptly, while others or requested materials arrived a day or two after the deadline. Some materials required multiple rounds of correction before they met a level of compliance. Commission staff discussed with GSCLC staff the importance of submitting timely and accurate materials, as GSCLC had challenges communicating with Commission staff during past Renewal of Authorization periods.

Commission staff visited the Juneau location this quarter and observed no violations or concerns regarding safety matters, space, equipment, or resources. At the visit, Commission staff learned that the primary contact at GSCLC for Authorization activities would change to a new staff member after the Commission meeting.

During the records review, Commission staff did not immediately review two student files because they were being preserved in another location within the GSCLC computer network, as they were from a previous recordkeeping system. Commission staff gave GSCLC a deadline to provide the missing records, and GSCLC delivered them on time, though it did not comply with the meningitis acknowledgment documentation. Commission staff observed that student records from more recent students included the meningitis documentation.

Commission staff sought student experiences through an online survey, which yielded six responses from a programmatically diverse group of students. The responses indicate the students do not recall receiving a copy of their enrollment contract or the institution's catalog, which the institution must provide under Commission regulations. Four responses indicated they would recommend GSCLC to another student, while two responded "maybe/it depends."

Evaluation

Minimum Standards Component - AS 14.48.060	Staff Evaluation/Comments
1. Program and courses meet stated objectives	The CDL program must meet DMV and FMCSA standards; the CDA meets Council for Professional Recognition standards
2. Adequacy of space, equipment, and resources	Reviewed at the Site Visit; CDL program must meet DMV and FMCSA standards
3. Appropriateness of staff/faculty credentials	Compliant licenses
4. Catalog/brochure compliance	Students report not receiving enrollment and catalog documentation
5. Credential compliance	Certificate awarded
6. Adequacy of records	Missing meningitis acknowledgment documentation
7. Compliance with applicable laws	No observations of non-compliance with other applicable laws
8. Financial soundness	Meets regulatory soundness requirements
9. Advertising and sales	Compliant

10.	Administrators are of good reputation	Background check-no adverse findings
11.	Student housing, if any	N/A, Klawock location in the future
12.	Refund policy compliance	Reviewed and documented
13.	Costs and charges compliance	Reviewed and documented

Staff Recommendation Action:

Staff recommends a one-year renewal of Authorization for Generations Southeast Community Learning Center through October 31, 2027, contingent upon the following:

- The new Commission contact person for GSCLC to schedule an introductory meeting with Commission staff by October 30, 2026, and subsequent meetings at Commission staff's discretion. These meetings will allow the new contact person to become familiar with all Commission statutes, regulations, applications, and forms.
- Submission of an institutional improvement plan to ensure that prospective and enrolled students are receiving copies of their enrollment contracts and the institutional catalog. This plan is due to Commission staff by November 15, 2026, and must include the disbursement of the Commission student survey on a quarterly basis to all enrolled students.

This recommendation is based on providing GSCLC staff the opportunity to learn from Commission staff about the Commission's expectations for operating a postsecondary educational institution. The institutional improvement plan and disbursement of the Commission's student survey should document ongoing compliance and progress of the improvement plan.

Suggested Motion Needed:

"Move to renew Generations Southeast Community Learning Center Authorization for one year, through October 31, 2027, based on staff recommendations."



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Main: 907.465.6740
Toll free: 800.441.2962
TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
acpe.alaska.gov

Staff Report Charter College Program Amendment

Summary

Charter College currently offers programs through its Anchorage campus and online. Most degrees are offered online, but in Alaska, a variety are delivered in person or in a blended format. The College is owned and operated by Prospect Education, LLC, of Reno, Nevada, with additional campuses in Washington, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The College is institutionally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) with several programmatically accredited programs.

Chief Administrator	Joshua Swayne, CEO, Prospect Education	Addresses	2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99508
Local Administrator	Charles Soule IV, Regional Campus Manager		5911 Old Seward Hwy, Anchorage, AK 99518
Year Founded	1985	Authorized Since	1985

- New Programs

Program or degree name	Program length	Tuition/Fee Cost
Certificate in Mental Health Technician	69 Credits	\$17,650

Program Review

The Certificate in Mental Health Technician is an online program that prepares students to provide care for patients with mental and/or emotional disabilities under the instruction of a physician or other healthcare practitioner. Mental Health Technicians (also referred to as Psychiatric Technicians or Behavioral Health Technicians) monitor patients' emotional and physical well-being, assist with therapeutic activities, support rehabilitation plans, document

patients' behaviors, and maintain a safe treatment environment. Only four states (AR, CA, CO, KS) require a professional license to work as a Mental Health Technician.

Anticipated Enrollment

The College expects approximately 60 students to join the program in the first 12 months following program approval, with a significant number being out-of-state students as Alaska's employment opportunities are relatively small.

Psychiatric Technician Job Outlook, State & National:

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Data:

Mean Wage	Wage by Percentile				
Mean	10 th	25 th	Median	75 th	90 th
\$27.54	\$19.39	\$23.62	\$24.83	\$31.88	\$37.42

Alaska Occupational Forecast							
2022	2032	Growth	Percent Change	Annual Labor force exits	Annual Transfers	Total Annual Separations	Total Annual Openings
248	280	32	12.90%	10	11	21	24

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Data 2025:

Mean Wage	Wage by Percentile				
Mean	10 th	25 th	Median	75 th	90 th
\$22.41	\$16.87	\$18.48	\$21.70	\$24.12	\$29.21

National Occupational Forecast			
Employment, 2024	Projected Employment, 2034	Change, 2024-2034	
		Percent Change	Growth
144,500	173,300	20%	28,900

Comparative Programs

There is not a comparative certificate program available; however, the closest program is an Associate of Arts in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Behavioral Health, offered through the University of Alaska Southeast. Other programs that may lead to an individual working as a Mental Health Technician include an Associate of Arts in Human Services, offered at all three campuses of the University of Alaska system.

Materials Review

The required application and supporting materials were reviewed by Commission staff and found to comply with statutes and regulations.

Staff Recommendation Action:

Staff recommends amending Charter College's Authorization to include the Certificate in Mental Health Technician, contingent upon approval from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

Suggested Motion:

"Move to amend Charter College's Authorization based upon staff's recommendation."

Administrative Order 360

ACPE's Regulatory Reduction Plan Amendment
October 15, 2026

*Jackie Hall
(Program Manager, ACPE)*



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

ALASKA'S REGULATORY REFORM INITIATIVE

- Administrative Order 360 requirements
- Progress under the plan
- Proposed amendments
- 2027 projected activities



Purpose and Direction of Administrative Order 360

Administrative Order 360 established a statewide initiative to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of Alaska's regulatory environment.

The initiative directs executive branch agencies to:

- Review existing regulations and related guidance
- Identify discretionary requirements that may be repealed, amended, or simplified
- Reduce unnecessary administrative and economic burdens
- Preserve statutory mandates, program integrity, and necessary public protections



Required Reduction Targets

25% Reduction Over Two Years

Agencies are required to:

- Establish the baseline inventory of discretionary regulatory requirements
- Achieve a 15% reduction by December 31, 2026
- Achieve a cumulative 25% reduction by December 31, 2027
- Maintain and update an annual regulatory reduction plan
- Document proposed rulemaking and other reduction activities

Reductions may be achieved through changes to regulations and guidance documents.



How Reductions Are Measured

Progress is measured by counting individual discretionary requirements, rather than the number of regulatory sections amended or repealed.

- Each obligation, condition, prohibition, or required action may count as a requirement
- Repealing or amending a provision to remove a requirement reduces the regulatory inventory
- Adding a new requirement increases the regulatory inventory
- Requirements necessary to implement a statute cannot be eliminated solely to meet a numeric target



What AO 360 Means for ACPE

To implement Administrative Order 360, ACPE has:

- Inventoried discretionary requirements in Title 20, Chapters 15-19
- Completed a comprehensive section-by-section review
- Solicited stakeholder and public input
- Identified provisions for repeal, amendment, or streamlining
- Submitted regulatory projects for Department of Law review
- Revised proposed reductions based on legal guidance
- Draft proposed regulations to implement the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program established by HB 28



ACPE's Amended Regulatory Reduction Plan

2026 Progress and Plan Revisions



Legal Review Changed Proposed Repeals

The Department of Law advised that ACPE could not fully repeal regulations for two statutorily established programs without corresponding statutory changes to:

Chapter 15, Article 1 – Education Loan Program

Chapter 15, Article 5 – Teacher Education Loan Program

ACPE therefore revised the affected project to:

- Retain provisions necessary to preserve the programs
- Replace full repeals with permissible amendments and partial repeals
- Adjust projected reduction from 205 to 191



Amended 2026 Projection

	Original Plan	Amended Plan
Regulatory Baseline	1,262	1,262
Proposed Regulatory Reductions	205	191
New Teacher Pilot Program Requirements	—	10
Net Reduction	205	181
Projected Regulatory Inventory	1,057	1,081
Reduction Percentage	16.24%	14.34%

Despite adding a new regulatory program and retaining legally required provisions, ACPE projects a net reduction of 181 requirements, or 14.34 percent of ACPE's baseline.



2027 Projected Reform Plan

Looking Ahead



ACPE's 2027 Strategy

ACPE has completed a comprehensive review of its regulatory requirements across Title 20, Chapters 15 through 19.

- All reasonable regulatory reductions identified are incorporated into the 2026 projects
- Further reductions could affect statutory mandates, program integrity, consumer protections, or clear administration

2027 Focus: Guidance Documents

- Consolidate related or duplicative materials
- Simplify information and instructions
- Eliminate obsolete guidance



Anticipated 2026-2027 Timeline

2026 Department of Law Preliminary Review

- February 4: Chapter 17 submitted
- March 3: Chapter 15 submitted
- April 28: Chapters 16, 18, and 19 submitted
- November: Anticipated submission of the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program project

2027 Public Process and Adoption

- January 14: Commission approval to begin public notice (all Chapters)
- January 18-March 20: Public notice and comment period
- April 1: Commission adoption
- April 15-June 30: Final approval process

2027 Guidance Document Review

- Review, consolidate, simplify, and eliminate obsolete or duplicative guidance documents



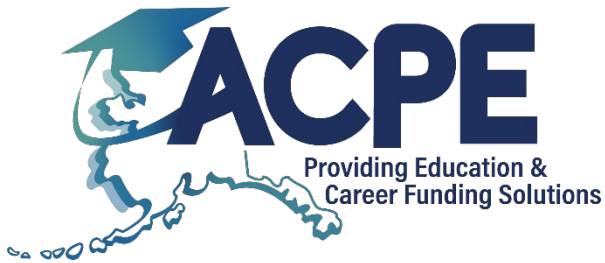
Questions and Commission Action

Suggested Motion:

Move to approve ACPE's amended annual regulatory plan, including changes to regulations in Title 20, Chapters 15 through 19, in compliance with Administrative Order 360.

Thank you!





Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Toll Free: (800) 441-2962
In Juneau: (907) 465-2962
TTY: Dial 711 or (800) 770-8973

Fax: (907) 465-5316

Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ANNUAL REGULATORY REDUCTION PLAN

JANUARY 1, 2026 – DECEMBER 31, 2027

Amendment No. 1: March 10, 2026

Amendment No. 2: September 30, 2026

Agency Regulatory Liaison

Jackie Hall

Program Manager

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Administrative Regulations	3
Amendment Notice.....	3
Background.....	3
Objectives	4
Regulatory Baseline.....	5
Stakeholder and Public Engagement	7
Summary of Recommendations	7
Regulatory Reduction Plan	10
2026 Reform Plan	10
2027 Projected Reform Plan	17
Regulatory Timeline	17
Regulatory Projects.....	17
Board Approval.....	18

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Administrative Order 360, Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative, aims to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the state's regulatory environment. The initiative mandates a statewide review of existing administrative regulations to reduce regulatory burdens by 15 percent by the end of 2026 and 25 percent by the end of 2027.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) staff conducted a comprehensive review of its regulations to identify outdated, duplicative, or overly prescriptive provisions. The review streamlines and clarifies requirements, removes barriers, and preserves program integrity, accountability, and legal compliance.

ACPE's proposed regulatory actions include the following key categories: clarifying regulatory language; removing obsolete provisions linked to discontinued programs and provisions imposing unnecessary burdens; and eliminating redundant requirements.

Public input and stakeholder engagement are essential to this process. The agency solicited feedback through public meetings and written comments to ensure the reforms balance regulatory efficiency with the needs of students, families, postsecondary institutions, and other stakeholders.

These efforts will deliver a 14.34 percent reduction in regulatory requirements for 2026. The staff's work and the substantial reductions identified represent meaningful, positive change to the regulatory framework. These efforts reduce unnecessary burden while preserving regulatory clarity, accuracy, and program integrity.

ACPE has completed a comprehensive review of its regulatory chapters and incorporated all presently identified opportunities for responsible regulatory reduction into its 2026 plan. Following additional legal guidance and accounting for regulations needed to implement the newly established Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, ACPE anticipates focusing its 2027 reform efforts on consolidating, simplifying, and eliminating obsolete or duplicative guidance documents.

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Amendment No. 1 incorporates changes supporting the Alaska Education Grant program, 20 AAC 16.005 through 16.050.

Amendment No. 2 incorporates a new project supporting the newly enacted Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program by adding a new article to Chapter 16, 20 AAC 16.300 – 20 AAC 16.390.

BACKGROUND

Administrative Order 360 is Alaska's Regulatory Reform Initiative, issued by Governor Dunleavy on August 4, 2025. The initiative was established to improve the quality, transparency, and efficiency of the State's regulatory environment by reducing administrative and economic burdens on Alaskans, investors, and agencies, and to encourage business and economic growth in Alaska.

Under this initiative, agencies must review their regulations systematically and implement reforms that achieve a 15 percent reduction in regulatory requirements by December 31, 2026, and 25 percent by 2027 (cumulative). Annual reporting is required to track progress, document actions taken, and provide transparency on the agency's efforts to align regulations with current practices, statutory intent, and public needs.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce regulatory burdens
2. Engage stakeholders
3. Increase transparency
4. Establish ongoing regulatory planning and reporting
5. Achieve measurable reduction targets

REGULATORY BASELINE

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education was established in 1974 to coordinate the development of educational programs and regulate postsecondary institutions in the State for the well-being of all Alaskans. Funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC), ACPE provides sustainable solutions for college, career, and technical training.

ACPE offers a suite of financial aid and outreach services designed to provide the educational access Alaskans need to become peak performers, regardless of financial status. These efforts support ACPE's vision of Alaskans as educated and skilled contributors to our vibrant communities and economy.

ACPE's administrative regulations are in Title 20 of the Alaska Administrative Code under Miscellaneous Boards and Commissions.

- **Chapter 15:** Establishes the framework for the State's student financial aid programs and the administration of student and family education loan programs.
 - 20 AAC 15.010 – 15.085 – Article 1. Education Loans
 - 20 AAC 15.086 – 15.095 – Article 2. AlaskAdvantage Federal Consolidation Loan Program
 - 20 AAC 15.100 – 15.170 – Article 3. AlaskAdvantage Loan Programs
 - 20 AAC 15.171 – 15.199 – Article 4. AlaskAdvantage Consolidation Loan Program
 - 20 AAC 15.200 – 15.295 – Article 5. Teacher Education Loan Program
 - 20 AAC 15.510 – 15.590 – Article 7. Family Education Loan Program
 - 20 AAC 15.610 – 15.690 – Article 8. A.W. "Winn" Brindle Memorial Education Loan Program
 - 20 AAC 15.700 – 15.795 – Article 9. Supplemental Education Loan Programs
 - 20 AAC 15.910 – 15.990 – Article 11. General Provisions
- **Chapter 16:** Establishes the framework for state education grants and scholarships, including the Alaska Education Grant and Alaska Performance Scholarship.
 - 20 AAC 16.005 – 16.050 – Article 1. Education Grant Program
 - 20 AAC 16.205 – 16.250 – Article 2. Alaska Performance Scholarship Program
 - 20 AAC 16.900 – Article 3. General Provisions
- **Chapter 17:** Establishes the regulatory framework to ensure that postsecondary institutions in Alaska operate responsibly, ethically, and transparently, while protecting students and maintaining educational quality.
 - 20 AAC 17.010 – 17.145 – Article 1. Authorization to Operate and Agent's Permits
 - 20 AAC 17.205 – 17.255 – Article 2. Authorization to Operate as a University, College, Junior College, Community College, or Career College
 - 20 AAC 17.900 – 17.910 – Article 3. General Provisions
- **Chapter 18:** Establishes and governs the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program. The WICHE program provides financial assistance to Alaska residents pursuing professional degrees not available in the state and participating in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP).
 - 20 AAC 18.005 – 18.990 – General Provisions
- **Chapter 19:** Establishes the rules, eligibility requirements, and financial terms under which ACPE provides financial support to Alaskan students participating in the WWAMI Medical Education Program, and defines the conditions for repayment or forgiveness of that support.
 - 20 AAC 19.010 – 19.990 – General Provisions

ACPE's regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements across Chapters 15 through 19 totals 1,262. The amended plan includes 10 new requirements for the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program and 191 proposed reductions. If approved, these changes would result in a net reduction of 181 requirements, or 14.34 percent of ACPE's original baseline.

Chapter 15. Student Financial Aid.		Baseline	Reductions
○ Article 1. 20 AAC 15.010 – 15.085		22	17
○ Article 2. 20 AAC 15.086 – 15.095		35	26
○ Article 3. 20 AAC 15.100 – 15.170		61	35
○ Article 4. 20 AAC 15.171 – 15.199		38	26
○ Article 5. 20 AAC 15.200 – 15.295		29	07
○ Article 7. 20 AAC 15.510 – 15.590		15	01
○ Article 8. 20 AAC 15.610 – 15.690		29	01
○ Article 9. 20 AAC 15.700 – 15.795		101	24.50
○ Article 11. 20 AAC 15.910 – 15.990		<u>185</u>	<u>01</u>
Total		515	138.50

• **Chapter 16. Education Grant and Scholarship Programs.**

	Baseline	Reductions
○ Article 1. 20 AAC 16.005 – 16.050	62	05
○ Article 2. 20 AAC 16.205 – 16.250	107	08
○ Article 3. 20 AAC 16.300 – 16.390 – New (+10)	–	00
○ Article 4. 20 AAC 16.900	<u>07</u>	<u>00</u>
Total	176	13

Article 3 is not included in ACPE's original regulatory baseline. The proposed regulations for the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program add an estimated 10 requirements, increasing ACPE's projected regulatory inventory from 1,262 to 1,272 before reductions.

• **Chapter 17. Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions.**

	Baseline	Reductions
○ Article 1. 20 AAC 17.010 – 17.145	348	18.50
○ Article 2. 20 AAC 17.205 – 17.255	42	06
○ Article 3. 20 AAC 17.900 – 17.910	<u>22</u>	<u>00</u>
Total	412	24.50

• **Chapter 18. WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program.**

	Baseline	Reduction
○ 20 AAC 18.005 – 18.990	<u>102</u>	<u>09</u>
Total	102	09

• **Chapter 19. Financial Support for the WWAMI Program.**

	Baseline	Reductions
○ 20 AAC 19.010 – 19.900	<u>57</u>	<u>06</u>
Total	57	06

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

ACPE solicited public feedback on potential regulatory changes to Title 20, Chapters 15 through 19, to gather ideas, suggestions, and input before proposing any specific amendments or repeals.

ACPE held a series of public meetings from October 15 to 29, 2025, during which staff provided a high-level overview of the regulations under Title 20 and invited participants to offer oral testimony on which regulations to prioritize for reform.

In addition to the public meetings, ACPE accepted written comments through multiple channels, including direct email, the Alaska Online Public Notice System, and an online survey. Public feedback is essential in helping ACPE shape meaningful changes that support students, families, and postsecondary institutions.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following timeline summarizes the public engagement process, the recommendations received, and, where applicable, whether ACPE accepted or rejected each recommendation.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
Chapter 15. Student Financial Aid	10/15/25	10/15/25 through 11/14/25	No comments received from the public	N/A	N/A	Although no public comments were received, ACPE will review Chapter 15 to identify opportunities for streamlining.
Chapter 16. Education Grant and Scholarship Programs	10/21/25	10/21/25 through 11/20/25	No comments received from the public	N/A	N/A	Although no public comments were received, ACPE will review Chapter 16 to identify opportunities for streamlining.
Chapter 17. Regulation of Postsecondary Education Institutions	10/28/25	10/28/25 through 11/27/25	Public testimony addressed the impact of recent storms in the region, which displaced approximately 2,000 individuals. She emphasized the importance of	Public Meeting	N/A	ACPE will consider this testimony as staff works to streamline regulations and programs under Title 20,

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			supporting displaced residents by providing job and training opportunities locally to improve retention rates and reduce homesickness. The individual also highlighted Alaskans' generosity in supporting those affected and urged streamlined regulations and programs to assist the community during this challenging time.			Chapters 15 through 19.
			20 AAC 17.095, regarding Facilities and equipment. Survey response: Keep the existing language.	Online Survey	Accepted	As requested, ACPE will make no changes to 20 AAC 17.095.
Chapter 18. WICHE Professional Student Exchange Loan Program	10/29/25	10/29/25 through 11/28/25	20 AAC 18.005 – The provision is clear, and WICHE has no issues with its stated purpose. 20 AAC 18.007- 20 AAC 18.050 – These provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction, and they do not conflict with any WICHE policies. WICHE has no issues with its implementation. 20 AAC 18.060 – This provision is clear and consistent with WICHE processes. 20 AAC 18.070-20 AAC 19.990 – These provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction, and they do not conflict with any WICHE policies. WICHE has no issues with its implementation.	Online Survey	N/A	Although no revisions were proposed, ACPE will review Chapter 18 to identify opportunities to streamline it.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			We reviewed the provisions related to Title 20, Chapter 18, which pertain to the WICHE Professional Student Exchange (PSE) Loan Program. Through the survey, WICHE noted that the provisions explain how we partner in the implementation of PSE. However, the statutory provisions fall under ACPE's jurisdiction. From our perspective, they are clear and concise, and they do not conflict with any existing WICHE policies or processes. WICHE has no concerns regarding their implementation.	Email	N/A	Although no revisions were proposed, ACPE will review Chapter 18 to identify opportunities to streamline it.
Chapter 19. Financial Support for the WWAMI Program	10/29/25	10/29/25 through 11/28/25	I am a UAA WWAMI medical school applicant and I am running into a problem with my residency eligibility. In summary, I am ineligible due to 20 AAC 19.030. 20 AAC was written in 1999, when school began in the Fall. However, this residency requirement does not fit the current WWAMI curriculum—the current WWAMI curriculum begins in July (Summer), not September (Fall). The 1999 state statute to establish residency intended “two consecutive years ending in September 1st of the year before the participant begins class [3 weeks later on September 27th, 1999] in the WWAMI	Email	Accepted	ACPE confirmed with UAA that the WWAMI program start date begins in July. ACPE will amend 20 AAC 19.030.

Chapter	Meeting Date	Comment Period	Public Recommendations	Channel	Action	Justification
			program". This sounds reasonable. A two year wait for residency before classes begin. The statute does not say —begins classes in the WWAMI program “the following year”, it implies that it is the same year "ending on September 1st of the year before the participant begins class [on September 27th, 1999] in the WWAMI program." However, when the 20 AAC 19.030 state statute from 1999 is applied with our current WWAMI July start date curriculum change, <i>this can cause a student to wait 3 years (not 2 years like the statute intends).</i>			

REGULATORY REDUCTION PLAN

ACPE’s regulatory reduction plan establishes the agency’s baseline of discretionary regulatory requirements. It further summarizes the proposed reductions identified through the agency’s comprehensive review process and establishes a timeline for submitting draft regulatory revisions to the Department of Law for preliminary review.

2026 REFORM PLAN

ACPE’s original regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements across Chapters 15 through 19 is 1,262. This amended plan includes regulations needed to implement the Teachers’ Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, which are estimated to add 10 discretionary requirements and increase ACPE’s projected regulatory inventory before reductions. Following additional legal review, ACPE revised the regulatory reforms proposed for 2026 to retain provisions that cannot be repealed without statutory changes. The remaining proposed changes reflect stakeholder meetings and written comments received during the public engagement process, as well as ACPE’s review of outdated regulations and opportunities for streamlining.

The proposed reductions will eliminate 191 discretionary requirements. After accounting for the 10 requirements added by the new program, ACPE will achieve a net reduction of 181 requirements, or 14.34 percent of its original baseline, by the end of 2026.

Regulatory Reductions

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.060. Resident forgiveness benefits.	The regulation describes the eligibility rules and procedures for loan forgiveness under former AS 14.43.120(j) for Alaska student loan borrowers from the 1986–87 school year and earlier.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.086. Purpose of the AlaskAdvantage federal consolidation loan program.	The regulation describes the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage federal consolidation program, which allows eligible borrowers to consolidate multiple outstanding federally guaranteed education loans into a single loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.087. General program requirements.	The regulation outlines the program's requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.088. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation outlines an applicant's eligibility requirements.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.089. Loan eligibility.	The regulation outlines which federal student loans may be consolidated and under what conditions.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.090. Application procedure.	The regulation describes the application process and the commission's right to request additional information.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.091. Loan disbursement.	The regulation describes how loans will be disbursed in compliance with 34 C.F.R. 682.206 and 34 C.F.R. 682.209.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.092. Loan fees, interest, and interest capitalization—sections (a), (b), and (c).	Section (a) of this regulation describes origination fees, section (b) states interest rates cannot exceed 8.25%, and section (c) describes how subsidized loans included in consolidation remain unsubsidized.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.100. Purpose of AlaskAdvantage loan program.	The regulation describes the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage loan program, which provides low-cost federally guaranteed loans to qualified applicants.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.105. General program requirements.	The regulation outlines that the program will be administered under the Higher Education Act of 1965.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.110. AlaskAdvantage loan types.	The regulation outlines the federal loan types under the program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.115. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.120. Institutional eligibility.	The regulation describes the eligibility requirements for institutions to participate in the program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.125. Application procedure requirements.	The regulation outlines the procedural requirements for applying for an AlaskAdvantage federal loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.130. Allowable use of loan proceeds.	The regulation states that AlaskAdvantage loan proceeds may be used, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1087ll, to pay the allowable costs of attendance related to the student's period of enrollment.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.140. Limitations on loan amounts.	The regulation states that borrowing under the program is subject to the annual and aggregate lifetime limits set out in 34 C.F.R. 682.204.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.145. Loan disbursement and refund.	The regulation states that loans will be disbursed in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 668.22, 668.164, and 682.207.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.171. Purpose of the AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan program.	This regulation provides the purpose of the AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.174. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.177. Application procedure.	The regulation outlines the procedural requirements for applying for an AlaskAdvantage consolidation loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.180. Priority ranking of applicants.	The regulation outlines how loans will be awarded.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.183. Computation of authorized loan amounts.	The regulation outlines what is included in the total loan award and the minimum authorized loan amount.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.186. Effect of consolidation on eligible loans.	The regulation states that a promissory note for an eligible loan is void once it is fully paid and consolidated, and commission staff will promptly return the canceled promissory notes to the borrower after the consolidation loan is originated.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.189. Loan fees, interest, and interest capitalization. Section (c).	This section states that the interest on the loan will be set by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation under 20 AAC 14.050.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.199. Definitions.	This regulation includes specific definitions applicable to the AlaskAdvantage consolidation program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.200. Purpose of teacher education loan program.	This regulation provides the purpose of the Teacher Education Loan Program.	Amend
20 AAC 15.205. Administration.	This regulation covers the administrative process for distributing nomination and application forms each year.	Amend
20 AAC 15.210. Filing of application.	This regulation outlines the application process and distribution of loan proceeds.	Amend
20 AAC 15.215. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation describes the applicant eligibility requirements for the loan.	Amend
20 AAC 15.220. Priority ranking of applicants.	The regulation describes how loans will be awarded if available funds are insufficient to fund all eligible applicants.	Amend
20 AAC 15.230. Condition of loans.	The regulation outlines how the loan may be used.	Amend
20 AAC 15.250. Forgiveness benefits. Section (d).	This section describes applicant eligibility for forgiveness benefits under former AS 14.43.120, which is no longer available.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.540. Duties of student recipient. Section (a).	The regulation describes the student's responsibility to sign the promissory note for the Alaska Family Education Loan program.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.705. Applicant eligibility. Section (a)(4).	This section describes eligibility under the AlaskAdvantage loan program, which is no longer available.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.710. Institutional eligibility.	This regulation points to institutional eligibility under 20 AAC 15.922.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.715. Application procedure requirements. Section (g).	This section describes the signature requirements for an endorser on the promissory note.	Amend
20 AAC 15.755. Loan forbearance.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.966.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.760. Medical cancellations.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.920.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.765. Delinquency and default.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.970.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 15.770. Complaints and appeals.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.915.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.775. Loan audit and institutional sanctions.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.924.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.780. Default rates of students who attend an institution.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.925.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.785. Default rate reduction requirements for institutions.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.925.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.790. Involuntary collection on the supplemental education loan.	This regulation points to 20 AAC 15.970. and 20 AAC 15.972	Repeal
20 AAC 15.795. Definitions. Section (2).	This section defines ASELP, which is no longer needed.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.945. Conditions and limitations of loans. Section (g).	This section of the regulation outlines how the interest rate on a Teacher Education Loan is set.	Repeal
20 AAC 15.960. Repayment of loans. Sections (c) and (e)(3).	These sections outline how payments on a delinquent loan are applied.	Amend
20 AAC 15.970. Delinquency and default. Sections (e)(4), (e)(5)(A), and (g).	These sections of the regulation outlines how to calculate an institution's default rates under AS 14.43.120(d) and AS 14.43.172(C).	Amend
20 AAC 16.005. Purpose of the Alaska education grant program. Sections (a)(2) and (a)(5).	This section states that the Alaska Education Grant Program provides higher education grants to residents of this state who demonstrate financial need based on FAFSA data.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.010. Applicant eligibility.	This section outlines the requirements a student must meet to be eligible for the Alaska Education Grant Program.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.015. Application priority.	This section outlines how Alaska Education Grant applications are prioritized and awarded.	Amend
20 AAC 16.021. Institution eligibility and responsibilities. Section (a)(3).	This section outlines institutional eligibility and responsibilities.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.030. Application procedure.	This regulation covers the application procedure, which is currently the FAFSA.	Amend
20 AAC 16.034. Priority ranking of applicants. Sections (a) and (b).	This regulation outlines how the agency prioritizes applications.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.037. Computation of financial need and authorized grant amounts. Section (a), (e), and (g).	This regulation outlines how grants are determined and how award amounts are calculated.	Amend
20 AAC 16.050. Complaints and appeals.	This regulation covers complaints and appeals, as outlined in 20 AAC 15.915.	Repeal
20 AAC 16.205. Purpose of Alaska performance scholarship program.	This regulation outlines the purpose of the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Amend
20 AAC 16.215. Application procedure. Sections (a), (b), and (c).	This regulation outlines the application process for the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Amend
20 AAC 16.225. Award disbursement and refund. Sections (d) and (e).	This regulation outlines the disbursement and refunds of the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 17.015. Exemptions. Sections (b), (d), and (f).	This regulation establishes which programs and institutions are not subject to full regulatory oversight. It balances regulatory efficiency with consumer protection.	Amend
20 AAC 17.016. Participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. Sections (a)(2)(A) and (d).	This regulation facilitates interstate delivery of postsecondary distance education, enabling Alaska institutions to participate in the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (W-SARA), allowing out-of-state institutions to serve Alaska students under W-SARA, and providing a clear framework for approvals, compliance, and complaint resolution.	Amend
20 AAC 17.018. Appeal process. Section (a).	This regulation provides a structured, fair process for challenging administrative decisions, including reconsideration by the executive director and, if needed, a formal administrative hearing, while maintaining an applicant's operational status during the appeal.	Amend
20 AAC 17.040. Status changes. Sections (a), (b), (c), and (f).	This regulation ensures that any material changes to an institution's programs, delivery, tuition, location, or ownership are transparently communicated and approved by the commission, maintaining regulatory compliance and safeguarding students.	Amend
20 AAC 17.045. Bonding requirements. Sections (b) and (e).	This regulation ensures that postsecondary institutions and agents maintain financial security to protect students from financial loss, establishes the method for calculating bond amounts, provides exemptions for employees, and allows alternative bonding mechanisms approved by the commission.	Amend
20 AAC 17.055. Fees. Sections (a) and (b).	This regulation provides a structured fee schedule for institutions and agents, covering applications, renewals, amendments, exemptions, and late submissions, supporting the commission's ability to regulate postsecondary education effectively.	Amend
20 AAC 17.060. General operating standards. Sections (c), (d), (e), and (f).	This regulation sets foundational academic, operational, admission, and safety standards for postsecondary institutions, ensuring programs are legitimate, compliant, and capable of delivering meaningful student outcomes.	Amend
20 AAC 17.065. Institutional and course names.	This regulation ensures that institution and course names accurately reflect the nature, level, and purpose of the education provided, protecting students and the public from misrepresentation, while providing limited exceptions for religious and Alaska Native institutions.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.070. Advertisement and solicitation. Sections (d) and (k).	This regulation protects students by requiring accurate, transparent, and verifiable advertising, ensuring institutions do not mislead about programs, costs, accreditation, placement, or professional outcomes.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.075. Catalog.	This regulation ensures that the catalog functions as a comprehensive disclosure document, providing students with all necessary information about the institution, programs, costs, policies, and outcomes so they can make informed enrollment decisions.	Amend
20 AAC 17.085. Enrollment contract. Section (g).	This regulation ensures enrollment contracts are clear, fair, and legally enforceable; protects student rights; accurately reflects program costs and schedules; and requires proper documentation of changes and student identity.	Repeal

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 17.102. Financial soundness.	This regulation requires institutions to prove financial stability through audited or reviewed financial statements, with extra safeguards for financially unsound institutions, including bonds, teach-out plans, and annual reviews. Smaller institutions may submit unaudited statements with certain standards.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.110. Records. Sections (b)(5), (c), and (d).	This regulation requires institutions to maintain detailed, accurate, and accessible records covering student demographics, academics, attendance, finances, and compliance. Permanent retention applies to transcripts, while other records must be kept for at least five years.	Amend
20 AAC 17.115. Tuition and refund policy. Sections (j) and (k).	This regulation establishes clear standards for fair tuition practices, a cooling-off period, proportional refunds based on attendance, and clear trust/accounting requirements for unearned tuition, with special standards for collegiate programs.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.117. Closure of institution or cessation or change of program. Section (g).	This regulation ensures students are notified in a timely manner, refunded fairly, and offered substantially equivalent alternatives if their program or institution closes. It also establishes strict penalties for noncompliance and mandates disclosure of financial unsoundness.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.125. Revocation, suspension, conditioning, or refusal of authorization.	The Commission can take action against an institution's authorization whenever it fails to comply with legal requirements, misrepresents information, or breaks its own promises in the application process. This key enforcement tool helps ensure institutions operate ethically and comply with state law.	Amend
20 AAC 17.140. Exceptions to complaints accepted. Sections (b) and (d).	This regulation specifies situations in which the Commission will not take action on a complaint, even if it is filed. It ensures the Commission focuses on timely, actionable complaints and avoids duplication with legal proceedings.	Amend
20 AAC 17.145. Complaint investigation process. Section (a).	This section outlines how the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education investigates formal complaints against postsecondary institutions, from initial analysis through potential hearings. The process moves from analysis → mediation → formal investigation → report → reconsideration → hearing, ensuring procedural fairness while prioritizing voluntary resolution when possible.	Amend
20 AAC 17.205. Use of terms university or college. Section (b).	This section governs the use of the term "university" and "college" by postsecondary institutions in Alaska, ensuring that only properly accredited and authorized institutions may use these designations.	Repeal
20 AAC 17.240. Institutional assessment.	This regulation ensures that institutions offering degree programs have a formal system for evaluating and demonstrating the effectiveness of their educational programs and support services.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.250. Admission requirements.	This regulation ensures that students admitted to degree programs can succeed and that program standards are upheld.	Repeal and Re-adopt
20 AAC 17.900. Definitions.	This section clarifies the key terms used in the regulations governing postsecondary institutions in Alaska.	Amend

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 18.007. Fields of study for which PSE loans are available. Section (3).	This section ensures that PSE loans are offered only for out-of-state professional programs that are hard for Alaskans to access, meet Alaska's workforce needs, and lead to careers that provide sufficient income to repay the loan.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.020. Certification eligibility. Sections (b) and (c).	This regulation ensures that Professional Student Exchange program participants are Alaska residents, meet school admission and loan eligibility standards, and maintain communication with their school regarding certification status.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.030. Application procedure. Sections (b), (c), (d), and (i).	These sections set the rules for submitting and processing PSE applications, including deadlines, required signatures, admission documentation, consent for record transfer, handling of continuing students, verification of information, and reporting changes to ensure accurate certification and loan administration.	Repeal
20 AAC 18.040. Certification procedure. Section (c).	This section establishes the timeline and process for notifying WICHE and applicants of certification, ensuring that eligible students are confirmed and alternates are considered based on available funding.	Amend
20 AAC 19.020. Application requirements. Section (a)(2).	This regulation requires applicants to be admitted to the University of Washington School of Medicine, meet state eligibility criteria, and agree to repay state support if they do not meet program obligations.	Repeal
20 AAC 19.030. Eligibility requirement.	This regulation ensures WWAMI participants have a strong connection to Alaska through prior residency and maintain the intent to return, while allowing limited absences for study, military service, the Peace Corps, or relevant work experience.	Amend
20 AAC 19.090. Complaints and appeals. Section (a).	This regulation limits complaints and appeals to issues with the commission's administration of WWAMI and excludes matters related to the University of Washington School of Medicine's admissions or internal administration.	Repeal
20 AAC 19.900. Definitions. Sections (1), (2), and (4).	These sections clarify terminology for Chapter 19.	Repeal

New Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program

Regulation	High-Level Summary	Action
20 AAC 16.300. Purpose.	The regulation describes the purpose of the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.310. Applicant eligibility.	The regulation establishes applicant eligibility criteria.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.320. Loan eligibility.	The regulation establishes the criteria a student loan must meet to qualify for repayment assistance.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.330. Applicant procedure and annual verification.	The regulation describes the initial application process and the annual verification process for continued participation.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.340. Computation of grant awards.	The regulation describes how grant awards are calculated and	New – Increases baseline requirements

	proportionally reduced when funding is insufficient.	
20 AAC 16.350. Verification of contract completion.	The regulation establishes how the Department verifies completion of a participant's contract term.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.360. Grant disbursement	The regulation describes how grant funds are disbursed to an eligible student loan holder on behalf of a participant.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.370. Complaints and appeals	The regulation identifies the process governing complaints and appeals.	New – Increases baseline requirements
20 AAC 16.390. Definitions	The regulation defines terms used in the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program regulations.	New – Increases baseline requirements

2027 PROJECTED REFORM PLAN

ACPE has completed a comprehensive, section-by-section review of its regulatory chapters and has identified for repeal or amendment all requirements that can reasonably be eliminated without impairing statutory mandates, program integrity, consumer protections, or clear and consistent administration. ACPE's existing regulatory framework is already narrowly tailored, and it has incorporated previously identified unnecessary or outdated burdens into the agency's 2026 Regulatory Reduction Plan. Subsequent legal guidance requires ACPE to retain certain provisions previously proposed for repeal. At the same time, implementation of the newly established Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program will add an estimated 10 regulatory requirements.

After this exhaustive review, ACPE has not identified additional regulatory requirements it can responsibly eliminate through rulemaking in 2027. Accordingly, ACPE will focus its remaining AO 360 reduction efforts on reviewing, consolidating, simplifying, and eliminating obsolete or duplicative guidance documents to reduce administrative burden further and advance the overall reduction target.

REGULATORY TIMELINE

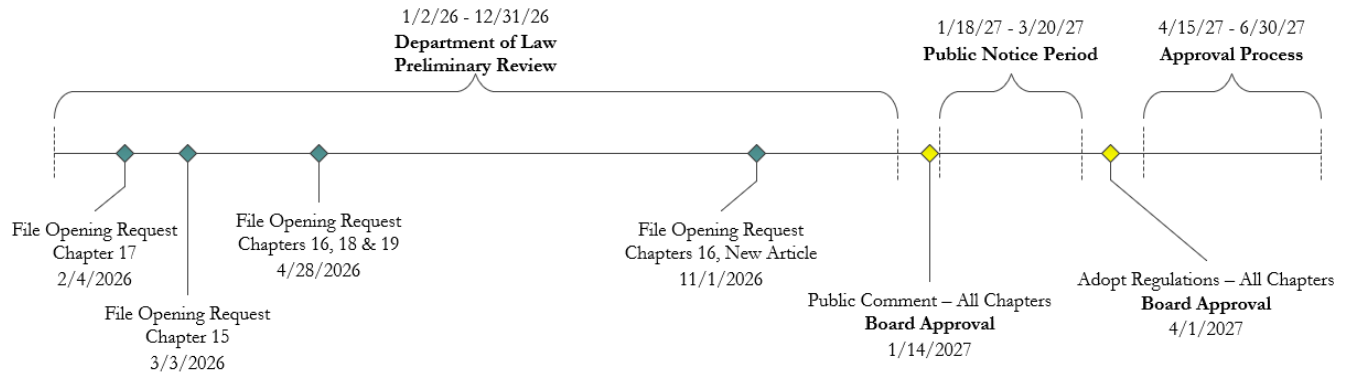
ACPE's regulatory timeline has been updated to reflect actions completed since approval of the original plan and the remaining actions anticipated under this amended plan. The regulatory revisions originally identified for 2026 were organized into three projects for submission to the Department of Law for preliminary review. The updated timeline identifies the current status and remaining milestones for those projects. It also includes the anticipated development of a separate regulatory project to implement the Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program, subject to approval of this amended plan by the Commission and the Department of Law. ACPE staff will continue drafting the proposed regulations and will coordinate with the Department of Law throughout the review and adoption process.

ACPE does not anticipate requesting drafting assistance from the Department of Law.

REGULATORY PROJECTS

- Chapter 17 Revisions – Submitted February 4, 2026
- Chapter 15 Revisions – Submitted March 3, 2026
- Chapters 16, 18, and 19 Revisions – Submitted April 28, 2026
- Chapter 16, new Teacher's Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program – To be submitted November 2026.

2026/2027 Administrative Regulations Projects



In closing, this report documents the actions taken and timelines established in response to Administrative Order 360 for 2026/2027. ACPE has not requested or been granted an extension of time for any regulatory reform deadline. ACPE remains committed to timely implementation and continued transparency as this work proceeds.

BOARD APPROVAL

The Commission approved ACPE's proposed regulatory reform plan during its January 15, 2026 meeting. The Commission presented the first amendment for approval at its April 2, 2026 meeting. The Commission will present the second amendment and proposed plan for 2027 at its October 15, 2026 meeting.

The Commission will submit certification of its action separately.

Alaska Performance Scholarship

ACPE Fall Commission Meeting 2026

Kate Hillenbrand

Director of Communications & Outreach

October 15, 2026



Overview

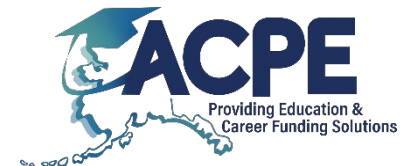
- **Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)**
 - Goals & Funding
 - Modernization Efforts
 - Roles & Responsibilities
 - Eligibility & Usage
 - APS Outcomes & Initiatives
 - APS Resources



APS Goals & Funding



acpe.alaska.gov
090



APS: Goals & Funding

- Established in 2011, APS is funded by the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF) and administered by ACPE, APS is Alaska's merit-based scholarship offered to Alaska students who meet specific eligibility criteria during high school.
- **Alaska Performance Scholarship**
 - Offers incentive for students to excel in high school
 - Prepares students for college & career training
 - Helps students persist & complete college & career training
 - Retains skilled Alaskans in Alaska



APS: Goals & Funding

- The funding allocation from the HEIF is calculated as:
 - 7% of the HEIF balance as of June 30 each year for the following fiscal year
 - 2/3 of 7% available for APS funding
 - 1/3 of 7% available for Alaska Education Grant (AEG) funding
- For FY2027, ACPE received 100% of the allowable appropriation from the HEIF



Modernization Efforts



Modernization Efforts

- HB148, effective June 28, 2024, changed numerous components of the program with the intent of increasing access to and utilization of APS
- Class of 2024 & Beyond
 - Expand curriculum options
 - Meet minimum GPA OR test score
 - Earlier award notification



Modernization Efforts

- **APS Updates for ALL Recipients**
 - Increase award amount for each APS level
 - Extend term of use from 6 to 8 years
 - Create Step-Up award for continuing students to increase award during postsecondary



Roles & Responsibilities





Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

APS Partner Roles & Responsibilities



Established in Statute – AS 14.43.810-849 and AS 14.03.113

TIMELINE

By Jan 15	By JULY 15	By MID-AUGUST	By AUGUST 15	Varies by Institution	At School Request	By Dec 31
9th/10th grade students receive APS information.	ALASKA SCHOOL DISTRICTS report individual student eligibility status to DEED.	DEED transmits student eligibility data to ACPE.	ACPE notifies incoming seniors & recent graduates of APS eligibility. ACPE coordinates with postsecondary institutions to certify APS eligible student enrollment for recent graduates.	POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION certifies student enrollment and cost of attendance.	ACPE disburses award to institution on behalf of student.	11th grade students receive notice of remaining APS requirements.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1	Alaska School Districts	1. Determines student APS eligibility and award level 2. Reports eligibility to DEED		1.  BY JULY 15: Provides required eligibility data to DEED	1.  BY JANUARY 15: Provide information about APS to 9th and 10th grade students 2.  BY DECEMBER 31: Notify 11th grade students of remaining academic requirements each student must meet to be awarded APS 3. Provide requirements to increase award levels
2	Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) 4 AAC 43	— COURSEWORK & CURRICULUM — 1. Establishes high school curriculum requirements 2. Records student's APS eligibility & level		1.  BY MID-AUGUST: Provides high school eligibility report to ACPE 2. Provides continuous student eligibility changes and/or corrections to ACPE	
3	Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) 20 AAC 16 Article 2	— DISBURSEMENT ADMINISTRATION — 1. Matches student FAFSA data to DEED eligibility information 2. Updates the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) 3. Provides postsecondary institutions a list of APS-eligible students planning to attend their school 4. Ensures post-secondary institutions certify student enrollment and continuing eligibility 5. Determines ongoing eligibility		1.  BY AUGUST 15: 1. Provides Certification rosters to postsecondary institutions after files are received from DEED 2. Provides Continuing Eligibility rosters to postsecondary institutions at the end of the term	1. Outreach and eligibility communications prior to high school graduation 2. Ongoing communications after high school 3. Stakeholder communications
4	Postsecondary Institutions	— ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION — 1. Monitor and record eligibility of enrolled students 2. Collaborate with DEED, DOLWD, and ACPE to record, share data, and prepare annual reports to the public, governor, and legislature		1. Certify student's eligibility for an APS disbursement 2. Certify student's eligibility for an increased award	Varies by institution
5	Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DOLWD) 8 AAC 81	— CTE SCHOOL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY — 1. Certifies that CTE programs are eligible to participate in the APS program (<i>CTE school must be located in Alaska and apply to participate in the APS with ACPE</i>)		As needed	Varies

Alaska Performance Scholarship | APS — Roles & Responsibilities

Roles & Responsibilities



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

APS Partner Roles & Responsibilities

Established in Statute – AS 14.43.810-849 and AS 14.03.113



TIMELINE

By JULY 15	By MID-AUGUST	By AUGUST 15	Varies by Institution	At School Request	By Dec 31
By Jan 15 9th/10th grade students receive APS information.	ALASKA SCHOOL DISTRICTS report individual student eligibility status to DEED.	DEED transmits student eligibility data to ACPE.	ACPE notifies incoming seniors & recent graduates of APS eligibility. ACPE coordinates with postsecondary institutions to certify APS eligible student enrollment for recent graduates.	POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION certifies student enrollment and cost of attendance.	ACPE disburses award to institution on behalf of student.
					11th grade students receive notice of remaining APS requirements.



Roles & Responsibilities

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1	Alaska School Districts	— ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION — 1. Determines student APS eligibility and award level 2. Reports eligibility to DEED	— DATA REPORTING 1. ! BY JULY 15: Provides required eligibility data to DEED	— PROGRAM AWARENESS & ELIGIBILITY COMMUNICATIONS 1. ! BY JANUARY 15: Provide information about APS to 9th and 10th grade students 2. ! BY DECEMBER 31: Notify 11th grade students of remaining academic requirements each student must meet to be awarded APS 3. Provide requirements to increase award levels
2	Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) 4 AAC 43	— COURSEWORK & CURRICULUM — 1. Establishes high school curriculum requirements 2. Records student's APS eligibility & level	! BY MID-AUGUST: Provides high school eligibility report to ACPE	1. Provides written notice of eligibility and level to students <i>not</i> enrolled in public school program
3	Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) 20 AAC 16 Article 2	— DISBURSEMENT ADMINISTRATION — 1. Matches student FAFSA data to DEED eligibility information 2. Updates the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) 3. Provides postsecondary institutions a list of APS-eligible students planning to attend their school 4. Ensures post-secondary institutions certify student enrollment and continuing eligibility 5. Determines ongoing eligibility	! BY AUGUST 15: 1. Provides Certification rosters to postsecondary institutions after files are received from DEED 2. Provides Continuing Eligibility rosters to postsecondary institutions at the end of the term	1. Outreach and eligibility communications prior to high school graduation 2. Ongoing communications after high school 3. Stakeholder communications
4	Postsecondary Institutions	— ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION — 1. Monitor and record eligibility of enrolled students 2. Collaborate with DEED, DOLWD, and ACPE to record, share data, and prepare annual reports to the public, governor, and legislature	1. Certify student's eligibility for an APS disbursement 2. Certify student's eligibility for an increased award	Varies by institution
5	Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DOLWD) 8 AAC 81	— CTE SCHOOL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY — 1. Certifies that CTE programs are eligible to participate in the APS program (<i>CTE school must be located in Alaska and apply to participate in the APS with ACPE</i>)	As needed	Varies

Alaska Performance Scholarship | **APS — Roles & Responsibilities**
ACPE | acpe.alaska.gov | 800-441-2962 | rev. 01/27/2025



APS Eligibility & Usage



APS: Eligibility & Usage

■ Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Complete specified high school curriculum
- Graduate from an Alaska high school
- Meet minimum GPA OR minimum standardized test score (ACT, SAT, WorkKeys) by graduation

 REQUIRED GPA -OR- TEST SCORE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	UP TO \$7,000 PER YR	UP TO \$5,250 PER YR	UP TO \$3,500 PER YR
Maximum Award			
GPA	☐ 3.5 OR GREATER	☐ 3.0 OR GREATER	☐ 2.5 OR GREATER
-OR-			
Test Score	☐ ACT..... 25 ☐ SAT..... 1210 ☐ WorkKeys.. 18 PLATINUM (no score below 6)	☐ ACT..... 23 ☐ SAT..... 1130 ☐ WorkKeys.. 15 GOLD (no score below 5)	☐ ACT..... 21 ☐ SAT..... 1060 ☐ WorkKeys.. 12 SILVER (no score below 4)



APS: Eligibility & Usage

- Receiving an APS Disbursement (*payment*)
 - Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) by June 30th Priority Deadline
 - *Students attending a non-Title IV institution must complete the APS Alternative Application*

ACPE can help
with FAFSA
completion!



APS: Eligibility & Usage

■ Participating Postsecondary Institutions & Training Centers

- ≡ About APS >
- ≡ Award Levels & Amounts >
- ≡ Planning for APS >
- ≡ Initial Eligibility >
- ≡ Continuing Eligibility >
- ≡ Institutions & Training Providers >
- ≡ Receiving APS >
- ≡ Step-Up Award >
- ≡ Private & Homeschool >
- ≡ Alaska Student Aid Portal >

Institutions & Training Providers

To determine if the institution or training provider is eligible to participate in the Alaska Performance Scholarship program, please review our up-to-date [APS Eligible Institutions & Training Providers List](#).

Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
An incentive to students, awarded to students, parents and educators alike.

ACPE
ACCREDITED

The following Alaska postsecondary institutions and training centers are approved to participate in the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) program for the upcoming academic year. There are two lists:

- Regionally and Nationally Accredited Institutions (offer career and technical education (CTE) certificates and associate, bachelor, and master degrees).
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Institutions / Training Centers (offer Department of Labor and Workforce Development approved CTE certificate programs).

Colleges award eligible students — the APS can be used toward a degree, CTE certificate program or an institution-approved fee.

CTE award eligible students — the APS can be used toward institutions or whether for CTE certificate programs only. NOTE: Occupational Endorsement (OE) programs are not eligible for APS funds.

NOTE: Contact your institution's Financial Aid Office to verify that your APS award can be used for your intended program of study.

1. Regionally and Nationally Accredited Institutions:

INSTITUTION	WEBSITE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
Alaska Bible College	www.alaskabiblecollege.edu 907.486.3000
Alaska Career College	www.alaskacareercollege.edu 907.486.3000
Alaska Christian College	www.alaskachristiancollege.edu 907.486.3000
Alaska Pacific University	www.alaskapacific.edu 907.486.3000
Blond Bay Campus - UAF	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000
Cheney College	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000
Chisholm Campus - UAF	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000
Etanah College	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000
London-Alutian Campus - UAF	www.alaska.edu 907.486.3000

ACPE - APS Eligible Institutions and Training Providers | Page 1 of 4

Rev. 10/2014



APS: Eligibility & Usage

- **APS Step-Up Award**
 - Opportunity for students to increase APS levels with a higher GPA at their postsecondary institution.

 REQUIRED GPA -OR- TEST SCORE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	UP TO \$7,000 PER YR	UP TO \$5,250 PER YR	UP TO \$3,500 PER YR
Maximum Award			
GPA	☐ 3.5 OR GREATER	☐ 3.0 OR GREATER	☐ 2.5 OR GREATER
-OR-	-OR-	-OR-	-OR-
Test Score	☐ ACT..... 25 ☐ SAT..... 1210 ☐ WorkKeys.. 18 PLATINUM (no score below 6)	☐ ACT..... 23 ☐ SAT..... 1130 ☐ WorkKeys.. 15 GOLD (no score below 5)	☐ ACT..... 21 ☐ SAT..... 1060 ☐ WorkKeys.. 12 SILVER (no score below 4)



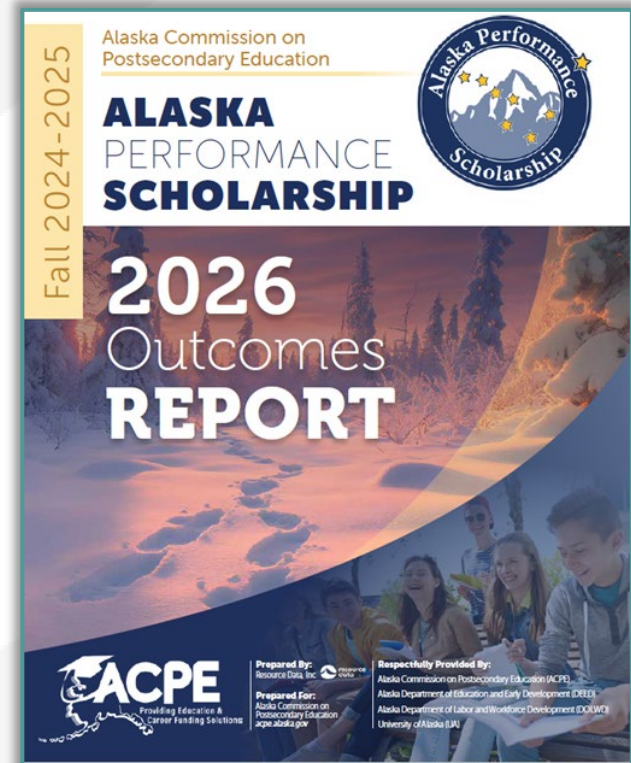
APS Outcomes & Initiatives



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

- Annually, ACPE publishes the APS Outcomes Report
 - Recent outcomes of eligibility & usage
 - Historical references & data since program inception

acpe.alaska.gov/reports



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

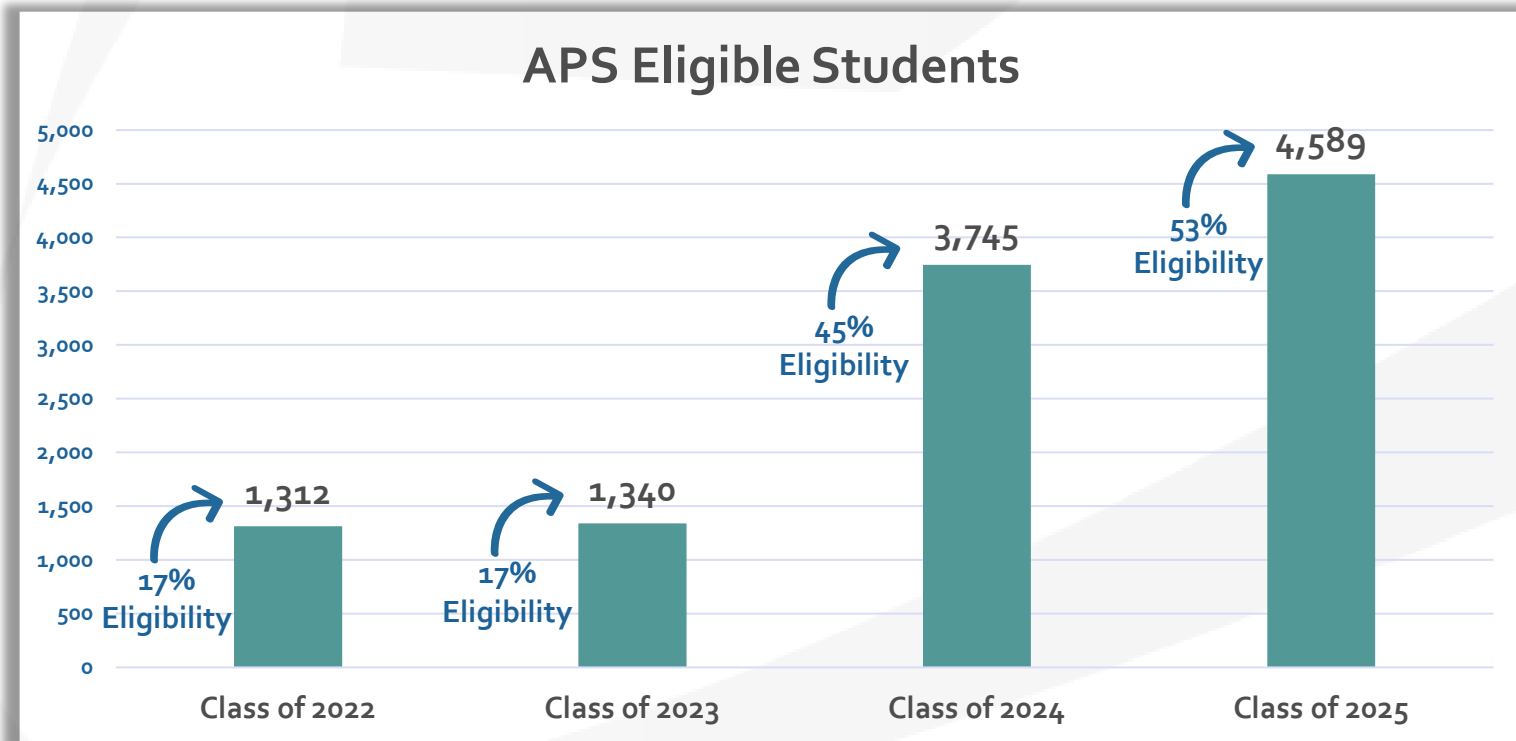
- Since program inception in 2011
 - Over **\$143 Million** has been awarded to eligible students
 - Over **15,000 students** have received an APS award
- Since the passage of HB148 in 2024, APS has seen record-breaking eligibility, usage, and awarding

aps.alaska.gov



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

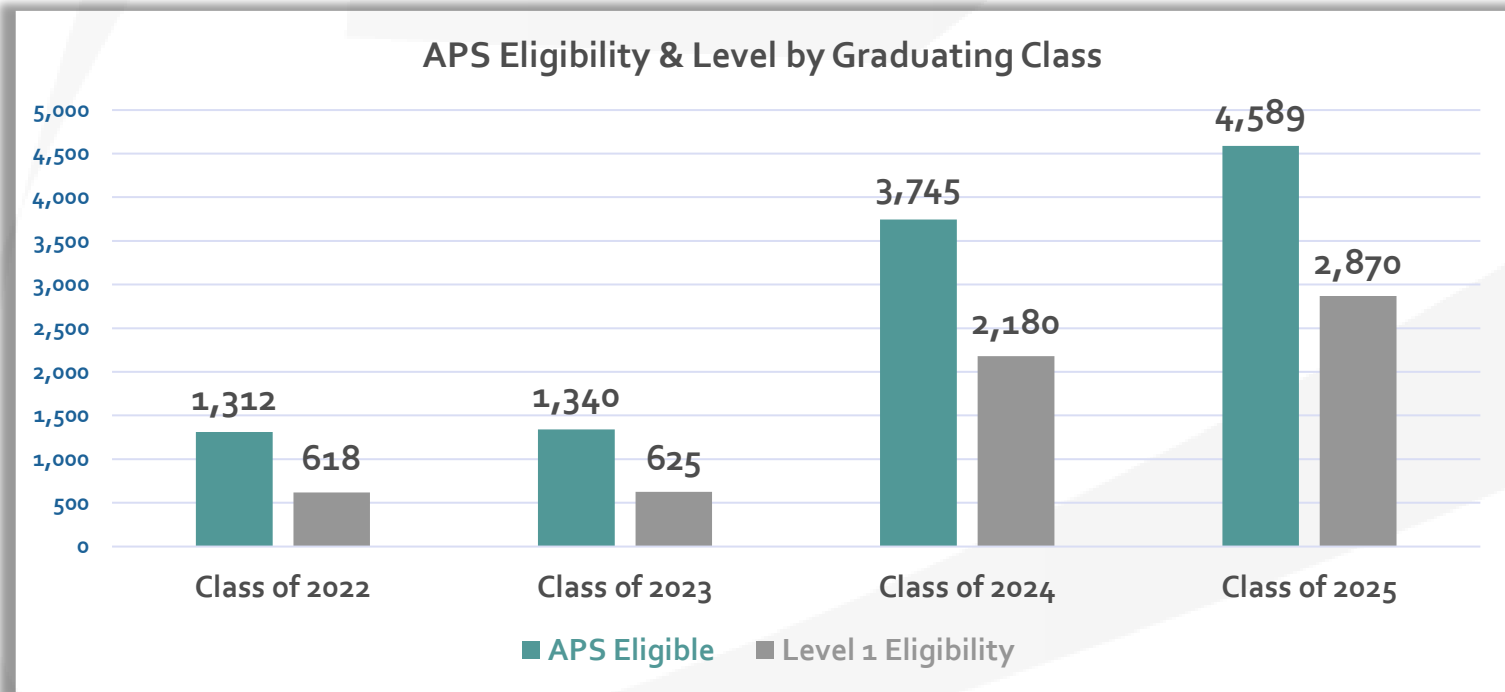
- 2026 APS Outcomes Report (Class of 2025)
 - 53% Class of 2025 eligibility – Highest in APS history
 - 4,589 Students eligible - Largest in APS history



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

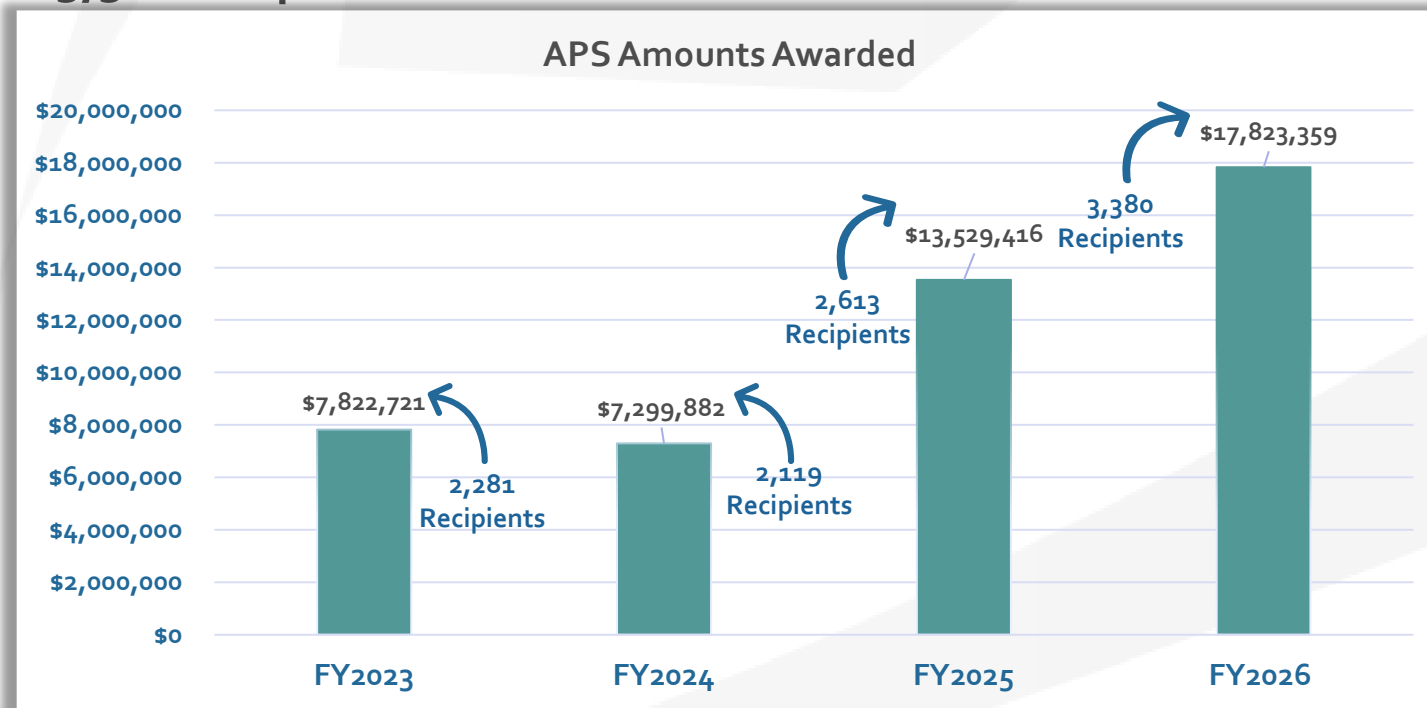
■ APS Eligibility & Level by Graduating Class

- Class of 2025: 4,589 APS eligible students, 843 student increase from prior year
- Class of 2025: 2,870 Level 1 eligible, 690 student increase from prior year



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

- Fiscal Year APS Awarding Outcomes
 - \$17.8 Million awarded in FY 2026
 - 3,380 recipients in FY 2026



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

Ongoing Initiatives

■ Opportunities for Collaboration

- Regular meetings between ACPE and postsecondary institution Financial Aid Offices to ensure awarding processes remain operational
- Statewide coordination with stakeholders to inform timely and consistent APS messaging with students, families, and school counselors



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

Ongoing Initiatives

■ APS Trainings & Materials

- Launch 4 audience-specific APS training videos for on-demand use. Audiences include:
 - General About APS
 - Students, Families, School Counselors
 - Postsecondary Admissions Counselors, Recruiters, Advisors
 - Financial Aid Officers



APS Outcomes & Initiatives

Ongoing Initiatives

- **APS Communication/Marketing Campaigns**
 - APS posters & letters to all Alaska high schools
 - Scheduled email campaigns to parents of high school-aged students
 - Print mail campaign to high school students
 - FAFSA reminder campaigns to high school seniors, continuing APS-eligible students
 - Remaining eligibility reminders (email)
 - Conference (in-person & virtual) APS presentations



APS: Test Your Knowledge

Pop Quiz!



APS: Test Your Knowledge

- What are the APS eligibility requirements?
 - Complete rigorous APS curriculum
 - AND
 - Meet minimum GPA
 - OR
 - Meet minimum score on ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys



APS: Test Your Knowledge

- Since APS began in 2011, how much has been awarded to eligible students?
 - A: \$50 Million
 - B: \$143+ Million
 - C: \$105 Million

ANSWER B \$143+ Million



APS: Test Your Knowledge

- When did legislation pass to modernize the APS program?
 - A: 2020
 - B: 2023
 - C: 2024

ANSWER: C - HB148 passed in June 2024, modernizing the APS program



APS: Test Your Knowledge

- What is the APS funding source?
 - A: HEIF
 - B: General Fund
 - C: Permanent Fund

ANSWER: A - HEIF – Higher Education Investment Fund



APS: Test Your Knowledge

- When is the Alaska FAFSA completion priority deadline for APS?
 - A: February 15th
 - B: June 30th
 - C: There is no deadline

ANSWER: B - June 30th



APS Resources



APS Resources

Alaska Performance Scholarship

Everything You Need to **Know!**



- ≡ About APS >
- ≡ Award Levels & Amounts >
- ≡ Planning for APS >
- ≡ Initial Eligibility >
- ≡ Continuing Eligibility >
- ≡ Institutions & Training Providers >
- ≡ Receiving APS >
- ≡ Step-Up Award >
- ≡ Private & Homeschool >
- ≡ Alaska Student Aid Portal >



The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is Alaska's merit-based scholarship program, awarding eligible students up to \$28,000 total towards their postsecondary education. To qualify for APS, Alaska high school students must complete a specific rigorous high school curriculum and meet either a minimum GPA or minimum standardized test score.

Resources At-A-Glance

[APS Checklist & Road Map](#)

[APS FAQ's](#)

[APS Statutes & Regulations](#)

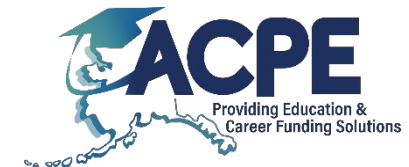
[APS Contact Information](#)

[APS Training Videos](#)



aps.alaska.gov

acpe.alaska.gov
121



APS Resources

APS Checklist:
At-a-glance
resource for HS
students to track
APS eligibility by
courses or test
scores.

aps.alaska.gov

Class of 2024 & Beyond
ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

To receive the APS and other forms of financial aid, students must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by **June 30th** of each year. Visit studentaid.gov

REQUIRED CURRICULUM | Contact your counselor for information about APS courses. Approved courses may also be available through resources such as the University of Alaska or others. Eligibility is determined based upon courses with a letter grade reflected on your official high school transcript.

Choose from option A, B, or C (curriculum options apply for all APS award levels)

Curriculum Option A	Curriculum Option B	Curriculum Option C
Science 4 credits	Science 3 credits	Science 3 credits
Math 4 credits	Math 3 credits	Math 3 credits
Language Arts 4 credits	Language Arts 4 credits	Language Arts 4 credits
Social Studies 4 credits	Social Studies 4 credits	Social Studies 4 credits
Other 2 credits	Other 2 credits	Other 2 credits

NOTE: Highlighted sections above reflect additional course substitutions within each Curriculum Option. For example, in Curriculum Option A, two (2) Science credits may be substituted with 2 credits/years of rigorous additional non-standard Science course(s).

REQUIRED GPA -OR- TEST SCORE

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Maximum Award	UP TO \$7,000 PER YR	UP TO \$5,250 PER YR	UP TO \$3,500 PER YR
GPA	3.5 OR GREATER	3.0 OR GREATER	2.5 OR GREATER
OR			
Test Score	ACT..... 25 SAT..... 1210 WorkKeys.. 18 PUMING (no score below 6)	ACT..... 23 SAT..... 1130 WorkKeys.. 15 GOLD (no score below 5)	ACT..... 21 SAT..... 1060 WorkKeys.. 12 SILVER (no score below 4)

NOTE: Receive a qualifying score from one of the following tests: ACT, SAT, or WorkKeys

Questions? Visit aps.alaska.gov

ACPE | EDUCATION

ACPE APS Checklist | 800-441-2962 | rev. 8/2024



APS Resources

APS Road Map:
If there is an initial eligibility discrepancy, students should contact their district.

Contact HS Counselor for Eligible Courses in Your District.

aps.alaska.gov



Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) APS Road Map

Have a question? Find who to contact below:

TOPICS:

PG 1... APS Eligibility
PG 2... ASAP Tracking APS
PG 3... Homeschool, FAFSA
PG 4... APS Disbursement
PG 5... General Questions, School District Questions

CONTACT KEY:

ACPE: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
APS: Alaska Performance Scholarship
ASAP: Alaska Student Aid Portal

DEED: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
FAO: Financial Aid Office
FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid
SC: ACPE Success Center

APS Eligibility

APS ELIGIBILITY DEFINITIONS 

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY = A student who meets APS eligibility requirements upon high school graduation.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY = After receiving their first two APS disbursements, students must meet specific requirements for future payments including minimum enrollment and GPA requirements.

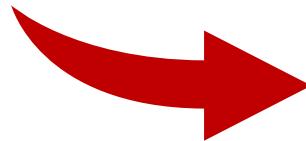
CIRCUMSTANCE	WHAT DO I DO NEXT?	CONTACT					
1. My counselor said I'm eligible for APS but my ASAP account says ineligible. What do I do?	INITIAL ELIGIBILITY - If BEFORE AUGUST 15 of student's graduation year: <i>Contact high school counselor to find out what APS eligibility was reported</i> - If AFTER ELIGIBILITY REPORT was sent to district: <i>Check with district office (usually 3 business days after data received)</i>	High School District Office					
	2. Why does my account say I'm ineligible for APS?	Student reviews ASAP account to determine if reason is based on SCHOOL CERTIFICATION: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">INITIAL ELIGIBILITY</th> <th style="width: 70%;">CONTACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• If NO, refer to School District</td> <td>DEED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• If YES, refer to FAO</td> <td>FAO</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	INITIAL ELIGIBILITY	CONTACT	• If NO , refer to School District	DEED	• If YES , refer to FAO
INITIAL ELIGIBILITY	CONTACT						
• If NO , refer to School District	DEED						
• If YES , refer to FAO	FAO						
	CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">CONTACT</th> <th style="width: 70%;">CONTACT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• If YES, refer to FAO</td> <td>FAO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• If NO, refer to ACPE (ACPE can determine ineligibility) → Other</td> <td>ACPE</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CONTACT	CONTACT	• If YES , refer to FAO	FAO	• If NO , refer to ACPE (ACPE can determine ineligibility) → Other	ACPE
CONTACT	CONTACT						
• If YES , refer to FAO	FAO						
• If NO , refer to ACPE (ACPE can determine ineligibility) → Other	ACPE						



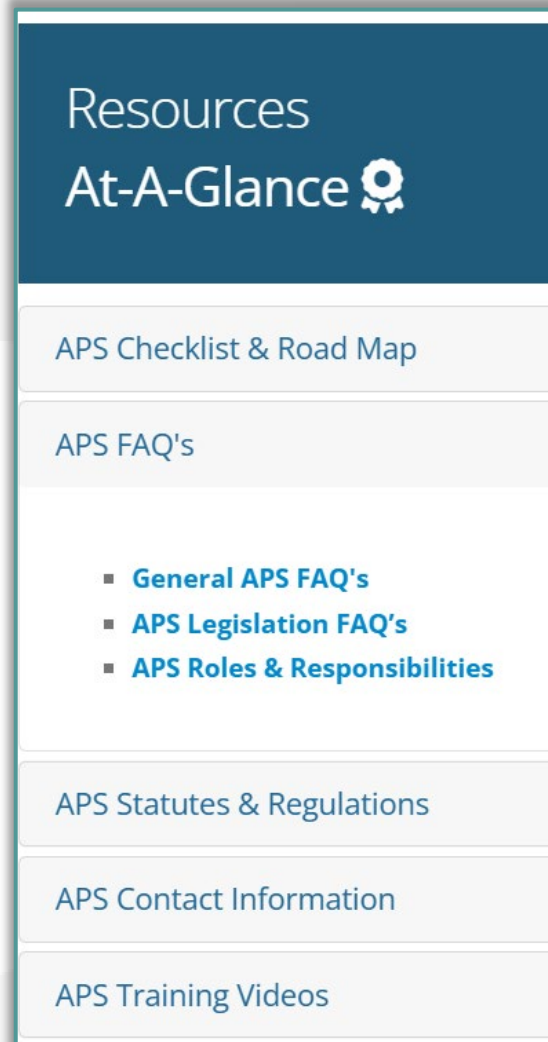
APS Resources

APS FAQs:

General APS FAQs &
APS Legislation
FAQ's are available
on the APS website



aps.alaska.gov



APS Resources

Reward Offered

APS

ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

UP TO \$28,000*

for Alaska's hard working high school students

*Eligible students can earn up to \$7,000 per academic year for four years (eight semesters) to use within eight years of high school graduation.

THREE AWARD LEVELS OFFERED

USE AWARD FOR COLLEGIATE OR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The APS is an invitation to excellence for Alaska's students, parents, and educators.

aps.alaska.gov | 800-441-2962 APS · REV 8/24

Alaska Performance **Scholarship (APS)**

Reward Offered

ACPE
Providing Education & Career Funding Solutions

APS Eligibility

BEFORE graduating high school, students must:

- 1 Take a specific, rigorous high school curriculum
- 2 Earn a minimum 2.5 GPA **OR** Meet qualifying scores on college or career readiness exams

How to Apply

aps.alaska.gov

To receive the APS, qualified students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

APS can be used at participating colleges or universities and approved career and technical education programs in Alaska.

Reward Summary

Up to **\$28,000*** for Alaska's hard working high school students.

*Eligible students can earn up to \$7,000 per academic year for four years (eight semesters) to use within eight years of high school graduation.

THREE AWARD LEVELS OFFERED

Any Alaska high school student can work toward qualifying for the APS!

The APS is an invitation to excellence for Alaska's students, parents, and educators.

aps.alaska.gov | 800-441-2962

APS AEG ASAP

ACPE
Providing Education & Career Funding Solutions

SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Alaska Performance Scholarship

Earn up to \$28,000!

Alaska's hard working high school students receive up to \$7,000 per year for four years. Eligible students must use APS within 8 years of high school graduation.

BEFORE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL:

- 1 Take a specific, rigorous high school curriculum
- 2 Earn minimum 2.5 GPA **OR** meet qualifying score on a college/career readiness exam

Alaska Education Grant

Alaska's Needs-Based Grant

to help students pay for college and career training:

- Up to **\$3,000** enrolled in 24+ credits
- Up to **\$4,000** enrolled in 30+ credits

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AEG, FOLLOW STEPS 1-3:

STEP 1 Visit studentaid.gov to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Select at least one Alaska Institution.

STEP 2 Visit acpe.alaska.gov/asap to create an Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) account. Available funds are awarded to eligible applicants in priority order.

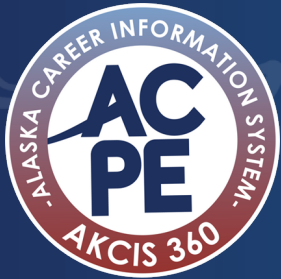
STEP 3 Confirmation of qualifying attendance by your school. Be fully admitted and enrolled by August 1st.

800-441-2962, OPT. #4 | acpe.alaska.gov/success-center REV 8/24

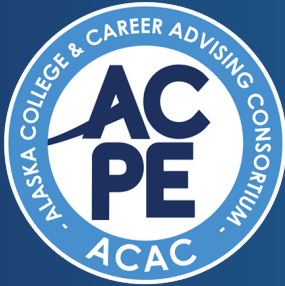
acpe.alaska.gov/resourcelibrary



ACPE Outreach Resources



AKCIS 360 is a comprehensive Personal Learning & Career Plan (PLCP) resource for discovering national and Alaska-specific education and career opportunities.



ACAC fosters partnerships with education stakeholders to improve the lives of Alaskans through access to postsecondary education and career training opportunities.



AFCI supports education and workforce development professionals to increase FAFSA completion rates in Alaska through partnerships and statewide collaboration.



The Success Center offers education, career training, and financial aid guidance. Connect in person or virtually for assistance and reach your college & career training goals.



Institutional Authorization serves as the educational consumer protection authority for Alaska's postsecondary students, institutions, and training providers.



Questions?

acpe.alaska.gov





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education**

FINANCE OFFICE

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505
Phone: 907.465.2962
Toll Free: 800.441.2962
TTY: Dial 711 or 800.770.8973
Fax: 907.465.3293
acpe.alaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Kerry Thomas, Executive Director
FROM: Melanie Stewart, Administrative Operations Manager
DATE: October 5, 2026
SUBJECT: Finance Report

FY2027 Operating Budget

Following is a summary of the Commission's enacted FY2027 operating budget.

Budget Line	Interagency (ASLC Receipts)	Designated General Fund - AHEIF	Designated General Fund Program Receipts	Statutory Designated Program Receipts	Total
Personal Services	7,537.8	39.0	32.9	.0	7,609.7
Travel	70.6	.0	1.3	.0	71.9
Contractual	3,441.9	692.1	70.3	150.1	4,354.4
Supplies	108.2	.0	.0	.0	108.2
Teacher Student Loan Repayment	.0	1,000.0	.0	.0	1,000.0
WWAMI	.0	5,140.1	.0	.0	5,140.1
AEG	.0	10,153.9	.0	.0	10,153.9
APS	.0	20,307.8	.0	.0	20,307.8
Total	11,158.5	37,332.9	104.5	150.1	48,746.0
Positions	49.74	-	0.26	-	50

Changes from the last time the FY2027 budget was presented include the following:

- **Interagency Receipts (ASLC receipts)**
 - Personal services line
 - A net decrease of \$180.0 due to vacancy factor adjustments, the elimination of one vacant PCN, offset with compensation increases and adjustments associated with health insurance,

PERS and other rate adjustments. The decrease in this line is offset with an increase to travel and contractual services.

- Travel line
 - An increase of \$24.8 to align with detail travel plan, with a corresponding decrease to personal services.
- Contractual line
 - An increase of \$155.2 corresponding to the net decrease in personal services.
- **Designated General Fund – GFPR** – This category represents funding for the Institutional Authorization program.
 - A decrease of \$0.8 in travel to align with detail travel plan, with a corresponding increase to contractual services.

Alaska Student Loan Corporation

The Corporation Board last met on May 8, 2026 to approve annual interest rates for variable rate loans and Investment policy.

The next Corporation Board meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2026 to review the annual audited financial statements and the annual dividend to the State of Alaska.

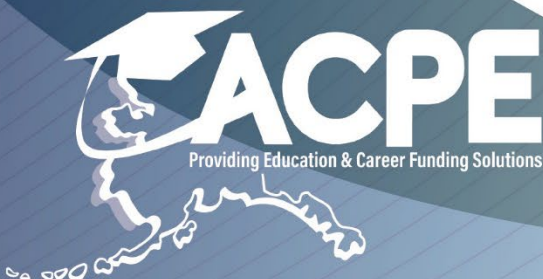
If you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further, please contact Kerry Thomas, Executive Director.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Quarterly Report

July 2026 – August 2026

**Program Management, Program
Support, & Default Management**



DIVISION OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS – QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

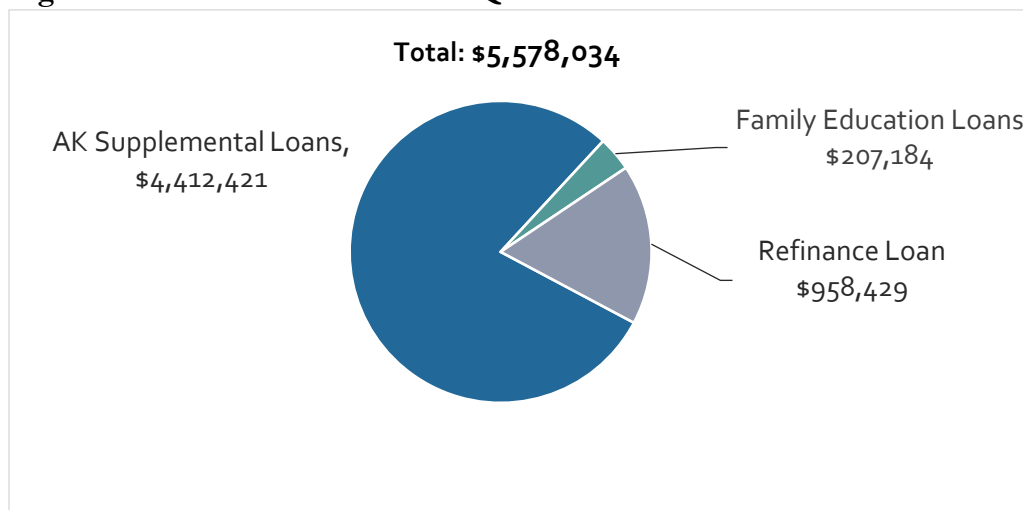
Overview

This report provides an overview of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) Division of Program Operations activities for Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2027 (Q1 FY2027), which includes data for July 2026 and August 2026. Information is provided for the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC) loan programs, Alaska Performance Scholarship Program, and Alaska Education Grant Program. An overview is also provided of ACPE customer service activities and new projects.

Loan Origination

For Q1 FY2027, ASLC originated 272 loans totaling \$5.6 million (Figure 1). The majority of the loans (79%) were Alaska Supplemental Education Loans (AK Supplemental Loans), 17% of the loans were for Refinance Loans, and 4% were Family Education Loans. Most of the AK Supplemental Loans and Family Education Loans (97%) were issued to students enrolled full-time in programs, and 3% were issued to students enrolled half-time in programs. The majority of the AK Supplemental Loans and Family Education Loans (72%) were awarded to students attending institutions outside of Alaska, and 28% of the loans were issued to students attending Alaskan institutions. ASLC issued 22% more loans in Q1 FY2027 compared to Q1 FY2026 (Table 1).

Figure 1. ASLC Loans Awarded in Q1 FY2027



Program Breakdown

In Q1 FY2027, ASLC issued 243 AK Supplemental Loans totaling \$4.4 million (Table 1), an increase of 41 loans and more than \$850,000 compared to Q1 FY2026. During that time, ASLC issued 13 Family Education Loans totaling more than \$207,000, an increase of 7 loans and more than \$119,000 compared to Q1 FY2026. ASLC issued 16 Refinance Loans totaling more than \$958,000, an increase of 1 loan compared to Q1 FY2026. The total amount of Refinance Loans in Q1 FY2027 decreased by approximately \$11,000 from the Q1 FY2026 amount awarded.

Table 1. ASLC Loans Awarded Issued in Q1 of FY2027 and FY2026

Loan Type	FY2026		FY2027		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
AK Supplemental Loans	202	\$3,561,891	243	\$4,412,421	20%	24%
Family Education Loans	6	\$87,771	13	\$207,184	117%	136%
Refinance Loans	15	\$969,016	16	\$958,429	7%	-1%
Total	223	\$4,618,678	272	\$5,578,034	22%	21%

Special Programs

The ASLC Special Programs include the Winn Brindle Program, WWAMI Medical Education Loan Program, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Professional Student Exchange Loan Program (PSEP). For Q1 FY2027, the only Special Program that issued a loan was the Winn Brindle Program (Table 2). The Winn Brindle Program issued one loan totaling \$5,572. In Q1 FY2026, the Winn Brindle Program also issued one loan totaling \$5,572. WWAMI did not have awards in Q1 FY2027 because applications are not processed until September. PSEP did not have awards in Q1 FY2027 because no applications were submitted.

Table 2. Special Program Awards Issued in Q1 of FY2027 and FY2026

Loan Type	FY2026		FY2027		% Change	
	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded	# of Loans	Amount Awarded
Winn Brindle Program	1	\$5,572	1	\$5,572	0%	0%
WWAMI Medical Education Loan Program	0	\$0	0	\$0	0%	0%
WICHE PSEP	0	\$0	0	\$0	0%	0%
Total	1	\$5,572	1	\$5,572	0%	0%

Loan Servicing

ASLC issued loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), until the program ended in 2010. ASLC also issues loans through ACPE programs. ASLC partners with American Education Services (AES) to service FFELP loans and ACPE program loans. As of Q1 FY2027, AES is servicing 2,132 FFELP loans totaling \$11.9 million (Table 3). The majority of ASLC loans for FFELP (87%) are in repayment. Most of the remaining FFELP loans are in forbearance or deferment (12%).

Table 3. ASLC Loans for the Federal Family Education Loan Program: Q1 FY2027

Loan Status	# of Loans	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	Total Loan Amount
In-School	5	\$34,422	\$21,174	\$55,596
Repay - Current	1,615	\$8,282,287	\$578,334	\$8,860,621
Repay - Past Due	233	\$1,342,679	\$45,864	\$1,388,544
Claim	20	\$115,942	\$7,782	\$123,724
Forbearance	155	\$802,470	\$78,877	\$881,347
Deferment	104	\$585,194	\$44,743	\$629,937
Total	2,132	\$11,162,995	\$776,774	\$11,939,769

As of Q1 FY2027, AES is servicing 5,506 ASLC loans issued through ACPE programs totaling \$60.1 million (Table 4). The majority of ASLC loans (85%) are in repayment. Most of the remaining loans are in deferment, in a grace period, or the borrower is still in school. A total of 770 loans totaling \$13.9 million are being serviced at collections because the loan is in default.

Table 4. ASLC Loans for ACPE Programs: Q1 FY2027

Repayment Status	# of Loans	Principal Amount	Interest Amount	Total Loan Amount
In-School	258	\$4,330,007	\$350,715	\$4,680,722
Grace	212	\$3,432,567	\$155,172	\$3,587,739
Repay - Current	4,460	\$45,226,952	\$213,096	\$45,440,047
Repay - Past Due	197	\$1,757,244	\$40,031	\$1,797,275
Forbearance	1	\$4,262	\$8	\$4,270
Deferment	378	\$3,929,205	\$683,236	\$4,612,442
Total	5,506	\$58,680,237	\$1,442,258	\$60,122,494
Serviced at Collections	770	\$13,140,703	\$792,154	\$13,932,857
Total	6,276	\$71,820,939	\$2,234,412	\$74,055,351

Immediate Repay Loans

Borrowers of AK Supplemental Loans have the option to start repayment when they receive their loans rather than deferring repayment. This is known as immediate repayment. For Q1 FY2027, there are 518 AK Supplemental Loans totaling \$6.7 million that are in immediate repayment status. A total of 488 loans totaling \$6.3 million are current in their payments, and 24 loans totaling approximately \$291,000 are delinquent in their payments. Six loans totaling \$42,345 are in default and being serviced at collections.

Loan Payments

For Q1 FY2027, payments of \$4.1 million were collected on ASLC loans (Table 5). The majority of the payments (63%) were collected from borrowers and cosigners, 35% of the payments were collected from garnishments of wages and Permanent Fund Dividends, and 2% of the payments

came from the external consolidation of ASLC loans. ASLC loan payments collected in Q1 FY2027 were 31% higher (+ \$968,000) than those collected in Q1 FY2026.

Table 5. ASLC Loan Payments Processed: Q1 FY2026 and Q1 FY2027

Method	FY2026		FY2027	
	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars	Amount Received	% of Total Dollars
Borrower/Cosigner	\$2,884,297	93%	\$2,552,752	63%
Garnishments (AWG, PFD)	\$183,424	6%	\$1,410,788	35%
External Consolidation	\$18,394	1%	\$90,959	2%
Total	\$3,086,115	100%	\$4,054,499	100%

*AWG stands for Administrative Wage Garnishment. PFD stands for Permanent Fund Dividend.

Vendor Complaints

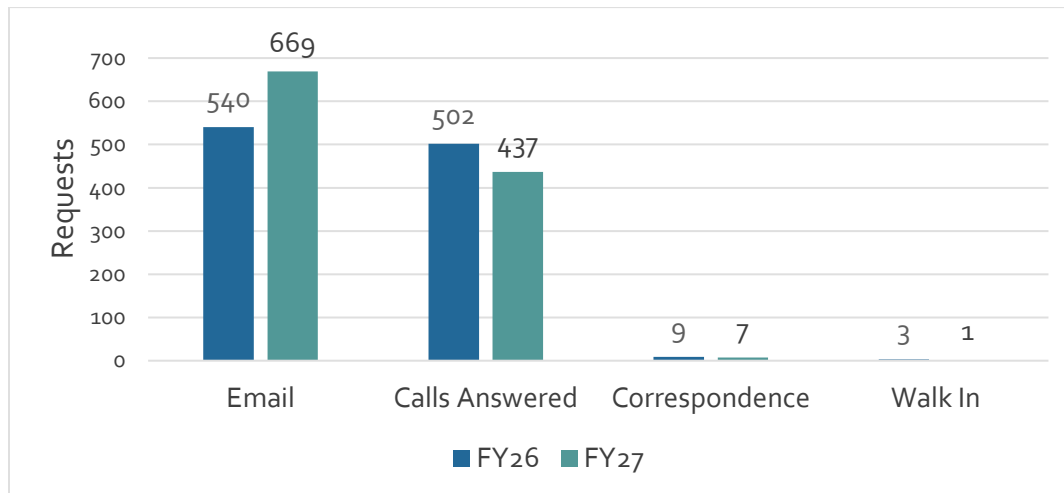
Three vendors help to originate and service ASLC loans: American Education Services (AES), CampusDoor, and Transworld Systems Inc. (TSI). For Q1 FY2027, ACPE identified 7 complaints from borrowers involving the vendors. Three complaints involved AES and related to account status, three complaints involved TSI and related to account status and repayment history, and 1 complaint involved CampusDoor and related to loan origination.

Grants and Scholarships

For Q1 FY2027 (July 2026 and August 2026), no scholarships were issued through the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program and no grants were issued through the Alaska Education Grant Program. Awards for those programs are typically issued starting in September.

Customer Service

ACPE staff provide customer service to borrowers of ASLC loans and awardees of the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant Program. For Q1 FY2027, ACPE staff responded to 1,114 requests from borrowers and awardees (Figure 2). The majority of those requests were answered through phone calls and emails (99%). ACPE responded to 60 more requests from borrowers and awardees in Q1 FY2027 compared to Q1 FY2026.

Figure 2. Customer Service Activity: Q1 FY2027 and Q1 FY2026

Project Updates

HB28 Implementation

House Bill 28 (HB 28), enacted in June 2026, establishes a three-year Teachers' Student Loan Repayment Pilot Program to support the recruitment and retention of qualified public school teachers in Alaska. The program is intended to provide student loan repayment assistance to eligible full-time certificated teachers working in identified high-need subject areas, including:

- Special education;
- English as a second language; and
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

ACPE is responsible for developing and administering the pilot program, including establishing eligibility criteria and application processes, adopting necessary regulations, administering grant awards, conducting program outreach and communications, and tracking program participation and outcomes. The legislation also requires ACPE to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program in supporting teacher recruitment and retention and to report its findings to the Alaska Legislature.

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

OUTREACH

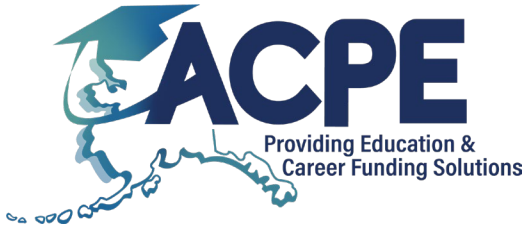
1835 Bragaw Street, Ste 410
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Success Center: (907)269-7980

Toll Free: (800) 441-2962

TTY : Dial 711 or 800.770.8973

acpe.alaska.gov



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Kerry Thomas, Executive Director
FROM: Kate Hillenbrand, Director of Communications & Outreach
DATE: September 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Communications & Outreach Report

The ACPE Communications & Outreach division delivers postsecondary awareness and financial literacy resources in support of ACPE's mission. This quarter Outreach connected with students, families, and stakeholders through 152 telephonic, in-person, or virtual sessions; organized and/or presented in 57 trainings or webinars; and reached 1,435 Alaskans.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Service Interactions	July - Sept 2026
1) Telephonic/In-Person/Virtual Sessions	152
2)Virtual/In-Person Webinars, Trainings	57
3)Virtual/In-Person Session Attendees	1,435

1) Includes Success Center

Top Reason for Service Interactions		
FAFSA & Financial Aid	APS/AEG/ASAP	ACPE Education Loans

phone calls, Zoom sessions, AKCIS Helpdesk calls, & FAFSA Wednesdays.

2) Includes group/school presentations, Master the FAFSA, AKCIS trainings & webinars, etc.

3) Total number of attendees in section 3 reflects attendance in section 2 only.

Alaska Performance Scholarship: The APS Training Project Group successfully launched four audience-specific standalone training videos for on-demand use. The recordings are available on the APS website and shared through various communication channels. Enhancing APS awareness remains a priority and as such, communications via email, social media, and trainings continue to be implemented.

Marketing Campaigns: Substantial planning took place this quarter to revise and prepare for the implementation of campaigns during the 2026-27 academic year. High level campaign topics will include:

- FAFSA Completion
- Alaska Performance Scholarship
- ACPE's Education Loan Programs
- ACPE's REFI Education Loan

ACPE's marketing campaigns utilize a multi-faceted platform approach to reach a wide variety of audiences. Components include ConstantContact, standard email, social media, and print mail. Considerations are also ongoing to incorporate additional options including streaming platforms, radio, and commercials.

Due to ongoing recruitment challenges for the vacant Marketing Specialist position, a short-term contract with an external firm ran through August 21, 2026. The first campaign highlighted FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion for APS and AEG through the June 30th priority FAFSA deadline. The second campaign highlighted and delivered a call to action related to ACPE's education loan solutions in advance of the 2026-27 academic year. These campaigns included placements on streaming audio, google search, and Meta with strong outcomes across all three tactics. Overall, the entirety of the campaign performance metrics resulted in 1.9 million impressions, ultimately building awareness and seeing increased traffic and click through to the ACPE website and program-specific pages for the campaigns.

Website Engagement: The ACPE website began FY 2026/27 with strong year-over-year growth in several key areas. During the first quarter, the website reached 28,170 users, a 44.7 percent increase compared with the same quarter last year. Website sessions increased 11.9 percent, while tracked user interactions increased 49.5 percent. Engaged sessions also increased 15.1 percent, and the website maintained a strong 93.7 percent engagement rate.

Traffic sources also shifted during the quarter. Organic Search was the largest source of website traffic with 10,568 sessions, while Direct traffic generated 9,003 sessions. Paid campaigns showed significant growth, with Paid Social increasing 100.8 percent and Paid Search increasing 264.9 percent from the previous quarter. Sessions per user also increased 13.1 percent, suggesting stronger repeat usage among visitors during the quarter.

Overall, the first quarter of FY 2026/27 showed strong year-over-year growth in audience reach and engagement despite a quarter-over-quarter decline in overall traffic. The continued growth in users, sessions, engaged visits, and tracked interactions compared with the same period last year demonstrates that the ACPE website continues to be an important resource for connecting Alaskans with education funding, financial aid, career planning, and postsecondary education information.

Alaska Career Information System 360 (AKCIS)

AKCIS 360 is a cost-effective online platform for comprehensive career, education, and financial aid information. AKCIS 360 continues to expand the list of integrated interactive Personal Learning & Career Planning (PLCP) activities and reporting tools available to Alaskans.

July – September 2026 Quarter Highlights

- Activation & Fee Waiver Agreements, submitted annually by AKCIS sites, are in peak renewal season. To date, 150 received; 29/54 school districts currently renewed, 100% of districts renewed list AKCIS as their Personal Learning & Career Planning platform.
- The Personal Learning & Career Planning activities listed by development levels in AKCIS PLCP 360 are customizable. Examples of customized Career Plans include: North Slope Borough School District's Tumitchiat Sivunmun (TSP) and the Alaska Career Guides – Vision, Postsecondary, and Financial Career Plans. 458 Career Plans have been completed since July 1, 2026.
- The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) curriculum recommendations for Options A, B, and C are shared through the Course Planner for every public middle and high school student in Alaska to monitor their progress toward the APS award. ACPE staff is offering school districts the opportunity to have their full course lists and courses in pathway added for deeper 4-year academic plans.
- AKCIS Partnership Coordinator provided workshops for: Knik Tribe's Rural Youth Services, Prince William Sound College, North Slope Borough principals and site administrators, Anchorage School District's Gui Kima Summer Intensives, Alaska Career Guides Conference, ACPE's ACAC Training, school district in-services and programs, as well as statewide webinars for educators, administrators, students, families, and native and community organizations.
- AKCIS Partnership Coordinator has conducted 15 training sessions for 316 educators, training providers, and students and families both in-person and virtually.
- New On Demand training session recordings are posted to AKCIS.org webpages and are available to participants to review and share with colleagues and classes.
- AKCIS login sessions have been steady with 8,170+ Portfolio logins, 9,690+ login sessions, and 218,000+ page views. While there is a slower start to the year with logins, the depth of use is demonstrated by the 33% increase in page views over this time last year.

Alaska College & Career Advising Consortium (ACAC)

Alaska FAFSA Completion Initiative (AFCI)

ACPE continues to spearhead statewide efforts to boost FAFSA completion rates and allow Alaska's students to pursue and persist in postsecondary education. [*ACPE's Alaska FAFSA Completion Initiative \(AFCI\)*](#) is a collective effort of education and workforce development professionals with an overarching goal of increasing FAFSA completion rates in Alaska year over year through partnerships and statewide collaboration, as well as trainings and dissemination of FAFSA completion resources.

We continue to offer weekly [*ACPE's Master the FAFSA Training*](#) sessions on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:45 pm; however, training sessions are on pause for the final two weeks of September in anticipation of the release of the new, 2027-28 FAFSA. We will resume the training sessions at the beginning of October 2026. This is to ensure the training material covered is properly revised and updated following the release of the 2027-28 FAFSA.

Alaska College & Career Advising Consortium (ACAC)

[*The Alaska College & Career Advising Consortium \(ACAC\)*](#) program fosters partnerships and collaboration among education and workforce development stakeholders committed to improving the lives of Alaskans through access to postsecondary education and career training opportunities.

Under the ACAC program, we offer:

- **Annual ACAC Training** – free professional development opportunity for professionals who help Alaska's students plan and prepare for postsecondary education and career training. The ACAC Training equips professionals with the knowledge, resources, and tools to support Alaska's students navigate their postsecondary journey. Additionally, professionals develop partnerships and engage in meaningful collaboration with other education and workforce development stakeholders from all over Alaska.

For the 2026 ACAC Training, we continue with our successful model of **short, unique live** sessions from a multitude of new and returning Guest Presenters representing distinct sectors and professional fields. ACAC Training sessions take place on **Zoom, on every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for five weeks** (September 15 through October 15). Sessions are recorded and published weekly on [*ACPE's YouTube Channel*](#) for individuals unable to attend a live session to review at a later time, or as a refresher for others.

Among newly introduced or re-introduced sessions are

- *ACPE's Alaska FAFSA Completion Initiative (AFCI)*
- *ACPE's Specialty Loan Programs*
- *Alaska Healthcare Workforce Coalition (AHWC)*
- *UAA's Youth Early Teaching Initiative (YETI)*
- *SERRC-Alaska's Educational Resource Center*
- *Yunt Elitnaurviat*
- *Outer Coast*
- *The Paneok Project – Aviation Education*
- *Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) Program*
- *Alaska DOLWD Office of Citizenship Assistance*

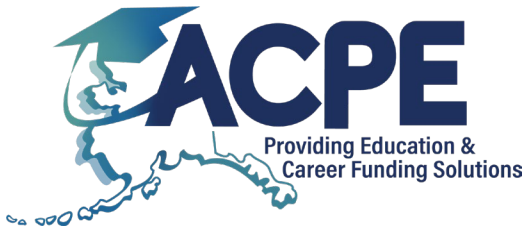
As of September 18, we have received **151** registrations.

- **Monthly ACAC Newsletter** – Introduced in April 2025, this tool keeps the ACAC Network members engaged and connected outside of the Annual ACAC Training. Featuring two ACAC Partner Spotlights and one section about ACPE's resources and initiatives, it highlights postsecondary education and resources, funding, and training opportunities available in Alaska. The ACAC Newsletter continues to receive praise, and the requests to be added to the distribution list are ongoing.

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

P.O. Box 110505
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505

Toll Free: (800) 441-2962
In Juneau: (907) 465-2962
TTY: Dial 711 or (800) 770-8973
Fax: (907) 465-5316
acpe.alaska.gov



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
THROUGH: Kerry Thomas, Executive Director
FROM: Jamie Oliphant, Director of Information Support Services (ISS)
DATE: 10/5/2026
SUBJECT: ISS activities

Project Updates:

Security Enhancements: Along with routine updates to software, major server version updates were completed throughout the quarter. There was no staff downtime during these enhancement periods.

Software Updates: Our programming team completed a yearlong project of converting to a new coding language. There was no staff downtime during this conversion.

HB 28 Teacher Loan Repayment: ISS staff are part of the project team working on scope and requirements for this pilot program.

Juneau Disaster Recovery Action: On August 12th the annual glacial outburst from Suicide Basin in Juneau occurred, causing ACPE to invoke our action plan for flood preparedness. We had a successful office shutdown while the flooding occurred. Fortunately, flood waters did not breach the building and business was back to normal the afternoon after the flood.

Misc. Updates: Smaller projects and tasks completed throughout the quarter include updates to reports, ACPE intranet and the Juneau door lock system.

Staffing and Recruitments:

Network Specialist: ISS welcomed Guy Unzicker on July 8th

Business Analyst (BA) Recruitment: ISS had a successful BA recruitment. The selected candidate's first day will be October 14th.

Retirement: On September 30th, ISS and ACPE said goodbye to Stephan Felkl.

Stephan joined ACPE in September of 1993, where he started working in microfiche. He quickly moved into the Loan Originations unit where he was recruited to be part of the initial HELMS Core Team in 1995. This team was responsible for implementing our main higher education loan management system that was successfully in place for over 20 years. In 2001, Stephan joined the ISS team as a Business Analyst. Throughout his tenure, Stephan moved from a Business Analyst to the Microcomputer Network Specialist, promoted to the Network Administrator, came back to the BA unit, ultimately ending his career as the BA Administrative Officer.

Stephan has a remarkable ability to adapt to new system and technologies over the decades, from early electronic processes to modern statewide platforms, supported smooth transitions and helped ensure continuity in service during periods of change. He leaves a lasting impact and legacy that we can all be inspired to maintain.

Business Analyst Administrative Officer Recruitment: We are in the process of recruiting for a new BA Administrative Officer.

Every decision made is based on our continued effort to ensure the IT infrastructure, systems and processes are operating in an accurate, secure and efficient manner.

It is a pleasure and honor serving the commission. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or need for additional information.

AFTERNOON BREAK

Please remain logged in and keep your line muted during the break. The meeting will resume in 15 minutes.



ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



MISSION MOMENT



ACPE



October 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Administrative Action Log
1st Quarter FY2027

Executive Director Decisions

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION TAKEN
	No actions to be reported this quarter.	

Commissioner Affiliations

Member	Current	Former
Trish Zugg (Chair)	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Chair ▪ Alaska Teaching Certificate/CTE Program Administrator ▪ Alaska Workforce Investment Board ▪ Association for Career & Technical Education ▪ CTE Consultant	▪ Alaska Association for Career & Technical Education – President
John Brown (Vice–Chair)	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Vice-Chair ▪ Alaska School Administrative Certificate ▪ Alaska School Teaching Certificate ▪ Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Vice-Chair ▪ Alaskans for Palmer Hayflats (APH) ▪ BodhiAK Consulting – Owner/Operator ▪ Building Design Committee of Mat-Su Central School	▪ Academic Advisory Council of Mat-Su Central (AAC) ▪ Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals (AAESP) ▪ Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) ▪ Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) ▪ Mat-Su Principal Association (MSPA) ▪ Wasilla Chamber of Commerce (WCC)
John Bardsley	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner ▪ American Association for Healthcare Quality ▪ American Association for Healthcare Risk Management ▪ Anchorage ADA Advisory Commission	▪ Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee
Representative Ashley Carrick	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner ▪ Alaska State House of Representatives	
Keith Hamilton	▪ Alaska Christian College – President ▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner ▪ Alaska State Personnel Board – Chair ▪ Azusa Pacific University – Certified Christian Non-Profit Leader ▪ Cascades Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors – Treasurer ▪ Evangelical Covenant Church Ministerium – Member ▪ Kenai Peninsula Executive Directors Association – Chair ▪ North Park University – Board of Trustees ▪ Seattle Pacific University – Board of Trustees ▪ Soldotna & Kenai Chamber of Commerce	▪ Alaska Children’s Trust Steering Committee ▪ Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Council ▪ Arctic Barnabas Ministry – Board Member ▪ Covenant Bible College Midwest – Vice-Chair ▪ Evangelical Covenant Church, National Board of Christian Formation ▪ Faith Based and Community Initiatives Advisory Council – Member ▪ Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley, CA – Board Member ▪ New Hope Counseling Center – Ex-Officio Board Member

Revised: September 29, 2026

Commissioner Affiliations

Member	Current	Former
		Task Force on Postsecondary Education – Member
Donald Handeland	- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner - Alaska Professional Civil Engineer - Alaska Student Loan Corporation – Chair - American Society of Civil Engineers - Anchorage Assembly Member– Eagle River, Chugiak, JBER	- Alaska Association of Student Governments - Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development - Alaska State Personnel Board - State Officers Compensation Commission
Paula Harrison	- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner - American Gas Association – Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee - HRCI Certified SPHR - Region 10 Northwest American with Disabilities Act, State of Alaska Representative – Board Member - SHRM – Certified SHRM-SCP - State of Alaska – Retirement and Benefits Committee - Trainer for State of Alaska Network on the ADAAA – Cornell University - University of Alaska – Board of Regents - University of Alaska – Chair Governance Committee - Western Energy Institute – Executive Human Resources Committee	- Board of Challenge Alaska - Chair of the Alaska Labor Relations Agency - Governors Committee on the Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities - University of Alaska
Kathryn McCollum	- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner - Alaska K-8 Teaching Certificate Retired - Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development - Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board - Mat-Su Republican Women’s Club - U.S. Civil Rights Commission – Alaska Advisory Commission - Wasilla Senior Center – Life Member	- Association of American Educators - Idaho Teaching Certificate - Knik-Fairview Community Council - Mat-Su Borough Public School Teacher, 31 years. - Mat-Su Education Association - Meridian, Idaho Public School Teacher, 1 year - National Education Association
Karen Perdue	- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner - University of Alaska – Board of Regents	

Revised: September 29, 2026

Commissioner Affiliations

Member	Current	Former
Senator Löki Tobin	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner ▪ Alaska State Senate	
Brittany Williams	▪ Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Commissioner ▪ Jubilee Worship Center – Member, Teacher ▪ Parent Teachers Association (PTA) President at Barnette Magnet School	▪ Alaska Christian College – Director of Institutional Effectiveness ▪ Alaska Teacher K-8 Credentials ▪ Association for Biblical Higher Education ▪ Chi Alpha Campus Ministries ▪ Educators Rising Alaska (formerly Future Educators of Alaska) ▪ Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Teacher

ACPE Roster

Position	Appointee (Current Appointee)	Date Appointed (Current Appointee)	Expiration
Administrator/Private Institution	<i>Vacant</i>	-	-
Alaska Workforce Investment Board Designee	Patricia Zugg	4/12/22	12/1/28
Board of Education Designee	Kathryn McCollum	6/23/25	3/1/30
Board of Regents Designee	Paula Harrison	6/21/23	6/21/31
Board of Regents Designee	Karen Perdue	6/21/23	6/21/33
Community Colleges	<i>Vacant</i>	-	-
Legislature/Representative	Ashley Carrick	2/14/25	
Legislature/Senator	Löki Tobin	2/19/25	
Private/Higher Education	Keith Hamilton	3/1/24	3/1/28
Public	Brittany Williams	11/12/25	3/1/28
Public	John Brown	3/28/24	3/1/28
Public	John Bardsley	3/30/26	3/1/30
Public	Donald Handeland	3/1/25	3/1/29
Student Representative	<i>Vacant</i>	-	-

FUTURE MEETING DATES

WINTER QUARTER

JANUARY 14, 2027



SPRING QUARTER

APRIL 1, 2027



SUMMER QUARTER

JULY 22, 2027



FALL QUARTER

OCTOBER 2027



2026

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Acronyms

Kerry Thomas
Executive Director

Updated March 2026

ACRONYMS AND TERMS FOR ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (ACPE)

Accreditation	Accreditation is a peer review process that examines competency, authority, or credibility of a higher education institution. Alaska requires that colleges and universities operating in the state be accredited by a body recognized by the Secretary of Education. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality and that credits are transferrable.
Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes)	Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) developed to manage, analyze and evaluate outcomes of educational programs and services. Outcomes is a partnership between the University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and ACPE. Outcomes replaces the ANSWERS system.
American Education Services (AES)	American Education Services. (AES) is a Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and private (alternative) student loan national servicer, owned by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). AES services ACPE's legacy FFELP portfolio.
Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS)	AKCIS is a web-based statewide service offered by ACPE to provide comprehensive, interactive and user-friendly career and postsecondary education/training information to help youth and adult users explore and plan for careers, with emphasis on careers within Alaska. AKCIS is offered in all 54 school districts.
Alaska College and Career Advising Corps (ACAC)	The Alaska College & Career Advising Consortium (ACAC) fosters partnerships and collaboration among education stakeholders committed to improving the lives of Alaskans through access to postsecondary education and career training opportunities.
AlaskAdvantage	The trademarked name of a now-discontinued suite of ACPE education loan programs and services that offered benefits or outreach to Alaskans and to the organizations that serve Alaska's students. This program ended when the Department of Education discontinued the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).
Alaska Education Grant (AEG)	A state need-based grant ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 per academic year for qualifying Alaska residents attending participating Alaska postsecondary institution. AEG awards are funded by the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), and operating costs are absorbed by ACPE.

Alaska FAFSA Completion Initiative (AFCI)	ACFI is a collective effort of education and workforce development professionals to increase FAFSA completion rates in Alaska year over year through partnerships and statewide collaboration, as well as trainings and dissemination of FAFSA materials.
Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)	Alaska's state performance-based scholarship to incent Alaska's students, parents and educators to strive for excellence in education. Awards may be used at participating colleges, universities or approved career and technical education programs in Alaska.
Alaska Presence Benefit	A legacy annual credit to qualifying borrowers' loan principal balances to reduce their costs. Borrowers qualify while living in Alaska. The ASLC Board approves the offering of benefits annually based on cash flows and costs estimates. This benefit is not offered on new loans.
Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)	ACPE web portal to provide students with secure access to real-time grant and scholarship account information regarding their eligibility, award level, remaining terms available, remaining years in which to use available terms, and ability to change record of school of attendance.
Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC)	The state corporation that funds the student loan programs and ACPE's operating budget. Created in 1987 to provide a means of alternative financing in the form of tax-exempt bonds. ASLC is governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor (two from ACPE and the Commissioners of Revenue, Administration and Community & Economic Development).
Alaska Supplemental Education Loan (ASEL)	Alaska's state education loan program to provide supplemental financial assistance if the federal loan program is insufficient to cover the costs of attendance or if the borrower does not qualify for financial aid under the federal student loan program.
Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the yearly cost of borrowing a loan, shown as a percentage of the amount borrowed. Because APR is calculated the same way on different loans from different lenders, the APR also allows applicants to compare loans with different terms and conditions.
Apply Now Alaska	An initiative coordinated statewide by ACPE and based on the American College Application Campaign model, to assist first-generation and low-income high school students as they navigate the complexities of the admissions process to postsecondary institutions. The event season runs from November to February.
Ascendium Education Group (AEG)	ACPE's federal loan guarantor, located in Madison, Wisconsin. Formerly known as Great Lakes Higher Education Guarantee Corporation.

Award Letter	An official document issued by a school's financial aid office that lists the financial aid offered to the student through the school. It provides details of a borrower's financial need and the breakdown of the financial aid package according to amount, source and type of aid. The award letter (also called a Financial Aid Notification/FAN) includes the terms and conditions for the financial aid and cost of attendance.
Administrative Wage Garnishment (AWG)	State statutes and regulations provide ACPE the authority to garnish wages of a borrower who has defaulted on their state loan, without the need for a court order. Limitations are structured in state and federal law.
Award Year	The academic year for which financial aid is requested (or received).
A.W. "Winn" Brindle Education Loan (WB)	This program, which is no longer funded, was funded by private donations and offered forgivable loans to full-time students in a fisheries-related degree or certificate program.
Borrower Benefits	Interest rate reductions and account credits that reduce the overall cost of borrowing. ASLC benefits are variable and are evaluated and approved annually based on cash flows and costs estimates.
Campus-Based Aid	Financial aid programs administered by the student's school. The federal government provides the school with a fixed annual allocation, which is awarded by the financial aid administrator to qualifying students. Programs include the Perkins Loan, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study. Note that there is no guarantee that every eligible student will receive financial aid through these programs because the awards are made from a fixed pool of money.
Capitalized Interest	Unpaid interest charges added to the principal balance of an educational loan thereby increasing the size of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest. Capitalizing the interest increases the monthly payment and the amount of money ultimately repaid. Interest is generally capitalized when there is a change in the status of the loan at a time when there is unpaid interest outstanding, such as going from deferment to repayment status. Borrowers can significantly reduce their costs by paying interest each month, even if a payment is not due.
Clearinghouse (or National Student Clearinghouse (NSC))	A non-profit association that maintains a comprehensive electronic registry of postsecondary student records provided by the participating schools. Over 2,700 colleges, 91% of the nation's enrollment, participate. The Clearinghouse process identifies those borrowers who withdraw from school and need to begin repayment; transfer from one school to another; return to school and may be eligible for a deferment; continue in school and are eligible for deferment or in-school extension.

Cohort Default Rate (CDR)	A measurement of loan cohort performance that identifies the percent of the cohort that is in default at a given time. Cohorts may include schools, states, or calendar groups. Alaska loan cohort rates are calculated annually based on loans entering repayment between January 1 and December 31 of the cohort year, which are greater than six months (180 days) past due at the end of the first 12 months of repayment and have not previously defaulted. These calculations differ from the federal cohort default rate calculations. The US Department of Education cohort default rate is calculated as the percentage of borrowers who entered repayment on Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans between Oct. 1st and Sept. 30th of a given year and subsequently defaulted prior to Sept. 30th two years later (for example, the 2016 CDR is calculated on student loans entering repayment between Oct 1, 2015 and Sept 30, 2016 and subsequently default prior to Sept 30, 2018).
Consolidation Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one bigger loan from a single lender. The consolidation loan pays off the balances on the other loans. ACPE no longer offers a consolidation loan; however, federal consolidation loans are still available.
Cosigner	A cosigner is responsible for loan repayment if the borrower fails to repay it. Borrowers who do not meet ACPE's credit requirements must provide a cosigner who meets those requirements. Also called an endorser.
Cost of Attendance (COA)	Cost of Attendance (COA) is a college's estimate of a student's total yearly education expenses, including both direct costs (tuition, fees, on-campus housing/meals) billed by the school, and indirect costs (books, supplies, transport, personal items) not on the bill, used to determine financial aid eligibility.
Credit Rating or Credit Score	Credit ratings or scores are calculated by credit bureaus based on an individual's past debt and repayment history. Credit bureaus and credit reporting agencies provide this information to banks and businesses to determine if an applicant meets the applicable underwriting standard to qualify for a loan. Credit scores generally range from 300 to 850, with the 2024 Alaska average score being 722, according to Experian.
Credit Reporting	ACPE reports the current status of all accounts to national credit bureaus monthly, which impacts the borrower's credit rating. Accounts that are 60 or more days delinquent are reported past due.
Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)	An official communication to schools and lenders that explains and clarifies the federal Department's guidance regarding federal regulations and statutes. Also known as a Dear Partner Letter.

Default	Failure to make monthly payments on the loan as agreed, or failure to abide by terms and conditions of a loan promissory note (PN). ACPE borrowers who default may be subject to wage and PFD garnishment and transferred to a collection agency, among other consequences.
Default Rate	The general definition of default rate is the measure as a percentage of borrowers who failed to make scheduled payments in a specified date range. See also Cohort Default Rate CDR.
Deferment	A period of time during which a borrower is allowed to postpone repaying the loan. With the exception of federal subsidized loans, interest continues to accrue during deferment periods. A borrower can postpone paying the interest charges by capitalizing the interest, which increases the size of the loan. Most loan programs allow students to defer their loans while they are in school at least half-time. A borrower who defaults on a loan loses eligibility for a deferment on that loan.
Dependent	For purposes of completing the FAFSA, a dependent student is generally one who is unmarried and under 24 years old. Federal need-based aid to dependent students is awarded based on their parents' income.
Direct Loans (DL)	The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (AKA the Direct Loan Program) is a federal program through which the federal government makes student loans. Loans may be subsidized for students considered high need under the FAFSA formula, meaning that the loans have very low rates and the federal government pays the interest during the in-school period and during certain other deferments. Generally, ACPE's interest rates are the next lowest option for Alaska students, after subsidized loans.
Direct Payment (ACH)	Automatic electronic debit from borrower's bank account each month for loan repayment. Borrowers making direct payment at ACPE receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction. The benefit is reviewed annually by the ASLC Board.
Disclosure	A written statement of the repayment terms of the loan sent to the borrower at the time the loan is scheduled for repayment. It identifies the principal balance, the estimated interest to be paid over the life of the loan, annual interest rate, annual percentage rate, the number of payments to be made and the monthly payment amount. A new disclosure is sent to the borrower if the repayment schedule changes, for example if the student receives a deferment. A disclosure may also be called a truth-in-lending statement or a statement of loan terms.
Due Diligence	The process of exercising a servicer's responsibility for collecting on a loan.

(ED) U.S. Department of Education	An acronym sometimes used for the Department of Education. Executive Branch of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers, and coordinates most federal assistance to education.
Electronic Signature (E-SIGN)	An electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with, a record and used by a person with the intent to sign the document or record. Established under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act on 6/8/2000.
Education Finance Council	The Education Finance Council is an association representing the nation's nonprofit and state-based student loan and finance organizations. These public purpose organizations are dedicated to the single purpose of making college more affordable.
Education Loan Management Resources (ELM)	Education Loan Management Resources created a uniform data exchange network for student loan processing. This technology platform allows lenders to exchange critical loan data with schools efficiently.
Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act 2003 (FACTA)	Federal act allowing consumers to obtain each year, free of charge, a personal credit history report, requiring that merchants omit from sales receipts all but the last five digits of a customer's credit card number, and requiring that procedures for government oversight and financial institution notification of ID theft and fraud be implemented. Amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).
Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)	The Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, is U.S. federal law enacted to promote the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of consumer information contained in the files of consumer reporting agencies.
Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)	The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Pub. L. 95-109; 91 Stat. 874, codified as 15 U.S.C. § 1692 –1692p, designed to eliminate abusive practices in the collection of consumer debts, to promote fair debt collection, and to provide consumers with an avenue for disputing and obtaining validation of debt information in order to ensure the information's accuracy
Fair Isaac Credit Score (FICO)	A statistical model developed by the Fair Isaac Corporation, which is used by credit bureaus, and banking institutions to calculate and determine an individual's credit score.
Family Education Loan (FEL)	ACPE's FEL program provides low interest loans to families to assist in paying the costs of education for family members. Borrowers may be parents, grandparents, foster parents, or spouses.
Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)	FFELP was terminated in 2009. Through FFELP, ACPE offered federally-guaranteed low-cost loans to students and parents. FFELP loans included Stafford, PLUS, Consolidated, all of which are now offered directly by the federal government.

Federal Methodology	The need analysis formula used on the FAFSA to determine the EFC. The federal methodology takes family size, the number of family members in college, taxable and nontaxable income and assets into account.
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	Program providing undergraduate and graduate students with part-time employment, usually at the school of attendance, during the school year. The federal government pays a portion of the student's salary, making it cheaper for departments and businesses to hire the student. For this reason, work-study students often find it easier to get a part-time job. Eligibility for FWS is based on need. Money earned from a FWS job is not counted as income for the subsequent year's need analysis process.
Finance Charge	The estimated amount of interest that will be paid over the life of the loan.
Financial Aid	Money provided to the student and the family to help them pay for the student's education. Major forms of financial aid include gift aid (grants and scholarships) and self-help aid (loans and work).
Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)	A staff member at an eligible school who is charged with the administration of financial aid programs.
Financial Aid Counseling	Students with federal loans are required to meet with a financial aid administrator or participate in a distance education-counseling program before they receive their first loan disbursement and again before they graduate or otherwise leave school. During these counseling sessions, called entrance and exit interviews, the FAA reviews the repayment terms of the loan and the repayment schedule with the student.
Financial Aid Office (FAO)	The college or university office that is responsible for the determination of student financial need and the awarding of financial aid.
Financial Aid Package	The complete collection of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study employment from all sources (federal, state, institutional and private) offered to a student to enable them to attend the college or university.
Financial Literacy	The ability to understand and effectively apply various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. Financial literacy helps individuals become self-sufficient so they can achieve financial stability. ACPE incorporates financial literacy education into the loan application process.

Forbearance	During a forbearance period, the lender allows the borrower to temporarily postpone repaying the principal, but the interest charges continue to accrue, even on subsidized loans. Forbearances are granted at the lender's discretion, usually in cases of extreme financial hardship or other unusual circumstances when the borrower does not qualify for a deferment. Typically, accrued interest is capitalized.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Form used to apply for a broad category of federal and state student aid programs. No fee is charged.
Federal Student Aid (FSA)	Aid offered to postsecondary education students by the federal government in the form of grants, loans, work-study programs, and other forms of assistance.
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	A widely accepted set of rules, conventions, standards, and procedures for reporting financial information, as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
Gift Aid	Financial aid, such as grants and scholarships, which does not need to be repaid.
Grace Period	The time that begins when a borrower leaves school (whether because of graduation or withdrawal) or drops below the required enrollment level, and ends the day before the repayment period starts. The length of the grace period is stipulated in the promissory note that the borrower signed. Payments are not due during the grace period.
Graduate PLUS Loan	A federal loan made to a graduate or professional student, defined as a student enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or enrolled in a program leading to a professional degree at an eligible school.
Graduated Repayment	A repayment schedule where monthly payments are smaller at the start of the repayment period and gradually become larger.
Grant	A type of financial aid based on financial need that the student does not have to repay.
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation (Great Lakes)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor from 2018 through early 2019 when it transitioned to Ascendium Education Group AEG as part of corporate restructuring.
Guaranty Agency or Guarantor	A state or private nonprofit organization that has an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Education to administer a loan guarantee program under the Higher Education Act, and enforces federal and state law regarding student loans. It is responsible for overseeing the student loan process, and insures them against default for the lender.

Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL)	A low interest loan administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is available to medical school students pursuing medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, clinical psychology, health administration and public health. Undergraduate pharmacology students are also eligible.
Higher Ed Loan Mgt System (HELMS)	Loan servicing software used by ACPE since 1996.
Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF)	Fund established in statute for the purpose of making grants and scholarships. This fund was established to endow the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and the Alaska Education Grant (AEG).
Income-Based Repayment (IBR)	IBR is a federal loan repayment option with payment caps based on income and family size. After 25 years of qualifying payments and/or economic hardship deferments, the US Department of Education repays the outstanding balance and accrued interest on eligible loans. IBR is available for all federal student loans, except parent PLUS loans.
Income-Sensitive Repayment	A repayment plan for federal loan programs available to borrowers whose standard monthly loan payment (10-year repayment term) exceeds a percentage of their discretionary income. The monthly payment amount is based on a percentage of gross monthly income, and must at least satisfy monthly interest accrual. The plan is designed for borrowers who have a low initial income but anticipate it to increase over time.
Independent	A student is considered independent for purposes of not including parent income on the FAFSA if the student is at least 24 years old as of January 1 of the academic year, is married, is a graduate or professional student, has a legal dependent other than a spouse, is a veteran of the US Armed Forces, or is an orphan or ward of the court (or was a ward of the court until age 18), homeless or at risk of being homeless. A parent refusing to provide support for their child's education is not sufficient for the child to be declared independent.
Institutional Authorization	All postsecondary educational providers in Alaska, and the programs they offer, must be authorized in accordance with law as set forth in AS 14.48, or be formally determined by ACPE to be exempt from authorization. ACPE's authorization process is designed to ensure postsecondary education providers and programs meet minimum standards set out in law, relative to: - Institutional financial soundness - Ethical business practices - Educational program - Administrative capacity Authorization is a separate process from accreditation.

Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR)	The electronic version of the Student Aid Report (SAR) delivered to schools. It is sent by the US Department of Education to provide information about students who completed a FAFSA and indicated they might attend that school. This report includes the EFC and is used by the school to determine eligibility for financial aid.
Interest	Amount charged to the borrower for the benefit of using the lender's money. Interest is usually calculated as a percentage of the principal balance of the loan. The percentage rate may be fixed for the life of the loan, or it may be variable, depending on the terms of the loan.
Interest Cap	The maximum interest rate that can be charged on a loan. Not to be confused with capitalized interest.
Institutional Standards & Evaluation Committee (ISEC)	Five commissioners appointed by the Chair to meet at the call of the Chair to consider matters of initial authorization, program changes, and institutional compliance, and make recommendations for final action to the full Commission.
Lender's Interest and Special Allowance Request and Report (LaRS)	An accounting mechanism that a lender uses to report to the Department the loans that it has made and to request from the Department interest benefits and special allowance that it has earned, or to report payments the lender owes to the Department.
Lumina Foundation	An independent private philanthropic foundation focused on increasing success in higher education.
Master Promissory Note (MPN)	A promissory note that authorizes the lender to disburse multiple loans during multi-year terms upon request and the school's certification of loan eligibility.
Medical Cancellation	In the event the borrower is permanently disabled, and therefore unable to be gainfully employed, a loan may be eligible for medical cancellation. Cancellation eligibility is, in part, determined by the loan contract the borrower signed. Alaska statute does not entitle a borrower to medical cancellation; therefore, contract law and Alaska Education Loan Regulations govern this process.
Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA)	Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority is one of several Direct Loan Servicers in the country. The ASLC is a signatory sub-contractor of MOHELA for federal Direct Loan Servicing. MOHELA services Direct Loans allocated to the ASLC, and the ASLC receives a share of the servicing fees paid by the US Department of Education.
National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)	A private nonprofit organization whose expertise is assisting higher education policymakers and administrators bridge the gap between research and practice.
National College Access Network (NCAN)	National non-profit organization that assists local communities initiate, develop and sustain college access programs designed to increase the number of students who pursue education beyond high school through advising and financial assistance.

National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER)	An organization which represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collection agencies, schools, and other organizations involved in the administration of FFEL portfolios.
National Disbursement Network (NDN)	A central disbursing agent affiliated with Education Loan Management Resources (ELM) that ACPE uses to disburse loan funds to schools that request this method of receiving disbursements. NDN electronically debits an ACPE account and disburses the funds to the school either by electronic fund transfer or by check, depending on the school's preference.
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)	The U.S. Department of Education's central database for information about a student's financial aid.
Need Analysis	The process for determining a student's financial need using financial information provided by the student and his or her parents (and spouse, if any) on the FAFSA.
Need-Based	Financial aid based on student's ability to pay. Most government sources of financial aid are need-based.
Northwest Ed Loan Association (NELA)	ACPE's former federal loan guarantor. NELA became affiliated with USA Funds in 2004.
Non-Subsidized Interest	Interest that accrues and is to be paid by the borrower.
Office of Management & Budget (OMB)	Budget office in the Governor's office.
Origination Fee	Administrative fee paid to the lender and charged as a percentage of the loan amount as it is disbursed.
P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)	Abbreviation and acronym for the statewide longitudinal data system, which links K-12 education data to postsecondary education and workforce information.
Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)	Federal loans available to parents of dependent undergraduate students to help finance the child's education. Parents may borrow up to the full cost of their children's education, less the amount of any other financial aid received. PLUS Loans may be used to pay the EFC. There is a minimal credit check required for the PLUS loan, so a good credit history is required.
Pell Grant	A federal grant to undergraduates that provides funds based on the student's financial need. The amount of the grant for 2025-26 is \$7,395.

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)	Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is a national provider of student financial aid services, including loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs. It conducts its student loan servicing operations nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES).
Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA)	Premiere Credit of North America, LLC (PCNA) is the collection agency contracted to collect on defaulted state education loans.
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	A WICHE program that provides access for Alaska students to enroll full-time in eligible health-related degree programs that are not available in this state. Alaska pays a support fee to reserve seats in these programs, and the Alaska program participants are required to repay the support fee paid on their behalf.
Promissory Note (PN)	Legal contract between borrower and ACPE describing terms and conditions of loan.
Program Participation Application (PPA)	An institution must enter into a program participation agreement with ACPE in order to be eligible to offer state financial aid programs. The agreement sets out the requirements for compliance with state statutes and regulations governing these programs.
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)	The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program forgives the remaining balance on federal student loans after borrowers have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer. Qualifying employers include a US federal, state, or tribal government or not-for-profit organization.
Refinance Loan	A loan that combines several student loans into one loan from a single lender. The refinance loan is used to pay off the balances on the other loans.
Skip Tracing	Skip Tracing is the process by which a lender attempts to obtain corrected borrower address or telephone information when the current address and/or phone is no longer valid.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)	Institutional requirements for satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving federal or state aid.
Student Aid Index (SAI)	The Student Aid Index (SAI) is a number from -1,500 to 999,999 used to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid, replacing Expected Family Contribution (EFC) starting in the 2024-25 aid year. SAI is calculated from FAFSA data on family income, assets, and household size, with a lower number indicating greater financial need and higher aid eligibility. SAI is not the final aid amount or what a family must pay.

Servicer	An organization that collects payments on a loan and performs other administrative tasks associated with maintaining a loan portfolio. Loan servicers disburse loan funds, monitor loans while the borrowers are in school, collect payments, process deferments and forbearances, respond to borrower inquiries and ensure that the loans are administered in compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements.
Special Allowance Payment (SAP)	A percentage of the daily average unpaid principal balance, paid to a lender by the Department on an eligible Federal Stafford, PLUS, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), or Consolidation loan. The special allowance rate is set by statutory formula. Currently the rates paid by borrowers on the loans are higher than the relevant market index and lenders are required to rebate the difference back to the federal government.
Stafford Loans	Federal loans that come in two forms, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are based on need; unsubsidized loans are not. The federal government pays the interest on the subsidized Stafford Loan while the student is in school and in certain deferment periods. The Subsidized Stafford Loan was formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL).
State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)	The national association of higher education leaders of statewide coordinating and governing boards and other state policy agencies for higher education. SHEEO serves its members as an advocate for state policy leadership, as a liaison between states and the federal government, as a vehicle for peer collaboration, and as a source of information and analysis on educational and public policy issues. In Alaska, the SHEEO role is shared between the Executive Director of ACPE and the President of the University of Alaska.
Success Center	ACPE Success Center offers education, career training, and financial aid guidance for Alaskans. Through Zoom, email, telephone, and in-person appointments and presentations, connect with Success Center staff to navigate and reach college and career training goals.
Subsidized Loan	With a subsidized loan, such as the Perkins Loan or the Subsidized Stafford Loan, the government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period following qualifying enrollment and the beginning of repayment, and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on financial need and may not be used to finance the family contribution.
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	Federal grant program for undergraduate students with exceptional need. SEOG grants are awarded by the school's financial aid office, and provide up to \$4,000 per year. To qualify, a student must also be a recipient of a Pell Grant.

Teacher Education Loan (TEL)	The TEL was created to provide an incentive for rural high school graduates to pursue teaching careers and return to teach in rural communities; school boards award teacher education loans with preference given to applicants from rural schools, to attend a bachelor's degree program in elementary or secondary education or a teacher certification program. Borrowers who teach in a qualifying school may be eligible for forgiveness benefits. Legislation passed in 2014 made the awarding of TELs to new borrowers subject to the availability of funding from the State. Absent such funding, effective fall of 2014, only continuing borrowers will receive additional loans, which are funded by ASLC.
Truth-In-Lending (TIL)	See Disclosure
Truth in Lending Act (TILA)	The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) of 1968 is United States federal law designed to promote the informed use of consumer credit, by requiring disclosures about its terms and cost to standardize the manner in which costs associated with borrowing are calculated and disclosed. It requires publication of the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on a loan.
Unmet Need	Any negative difference between the amount a student/family has the capacity to pay and the cost of education as certified by the institution's Financial Aid Office is considered to be their "unmet need".
Unsubsidized Loan	A loan for which the borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which increases the loan amount.
Variable Interest Rate (VIR)	In a variable interest loan, the interest rate changes periodically. For example, the interest rate might be pegged to the cost of US Treasury Bills (e.g., T-Bill rate plus 3.1%) and be updated monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. ACPE does not currently offer any variable rate loans.
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)	WICHE is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted by the Western states. WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. It implements a number of activities to accomplish its objectives. Alaska participates in three WICHE student exchange programs administered by ACPE. Alaska has participated in the WICHE compact since 1955.
Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)	A WICHE program, WUE allows Alaska residents to enroll at two-year and four-year institutions in participating states at reduced tuition level applicable only to WUE students. Over 100 colleges and universities participate in this exchange program.

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)	A WICHE program that enables Alaska residents to enroll at reduced tuition rates in certain graduate programs in other western states.
The Washington, Wyoming Alaska, Montana, Idaho Program (WWAMI)	Provides access to graduate medical education not otherwise available in Alaska. State residents compete only with other Alaska residents for 20 positions reserved at the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSM) for Alaska students. Alaska pays to UWSM the contractual costs of the program not covered by tuition, but fifty percent of that cost is a loan for the participant if they fail to return to the state and become employed in the medical field for which support was provided. After acceptance by UWSM, the student attends the first year of school at UAA.

Closing Comments



(907) 465-6740

Thank you for your time!



Eed.acpe-execdirector@alaska.gov



<https://acpe.alaska.gov>

