

# Alaska Performance Scholarship

An invitation to excellence, extended to students, parents and educators alike.

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## Fact Sheet

### WHO can get the scholarship?

Alaska residents who graduate from an Alaska high school (public, private, or home school), in 2011, and:

- complete a rigorous high school curriculum, as defined by regulations
- achieve a high school GPA of at least 2.5, or equivalent
- earn a minimum score on college or career readiness test (21 on the ACT, 1450 on the SAT, or 5 on WorkKeys)
- enroll at least half time, and remain in good standing, in an approved program at a qualifying Alaska institution
- have qualifying education costs remaining after using all other non-loan aid (e.g. federal grants or other scholarships)

### WHERE can the scholarship be used?

At any regionally accredited college or university in Alaska, or for approved career and technical education programs.

### HOW MUCH is the scholarship?

There are three maximum award levels: up to \$4,755 a year, \$3,566 a year, and \$2,378 a year. Amounts are established based on a combination of minimum GPA and test scores. Students may remain eligible for up to eight semesters of enrollment, but must use the award within six years of their high school graduation year.

Funds can be used for qualifying costs of attendance certified by the postsecondary institution, which typically include tuition, fees, books, tools and supplies, room and board and transportation. Students must apply for and apply any other non-loan financial aid to pay their education costs first. Students will not receive more Alaska scholarship funds than the costs of attendance that remain after other aid is considered.

### WHAT is required to get the scholarship?

#### Step 1) TAKE A RIGOROUS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

The curriculum requirements are being phased in for the high school graduating classes of 2011 and 2012. Members of the 2011 class must graduate from high school having successfully completed a curriculum that includes a minimum of five credits, combined, in math and science (with no fewer than two credits in each) to be eligible.

To be considered for eligibility high school freshman and sophomores (classes of 2013 and 2014) should choose a pathway and prepare to complete the full requirements set in statute:

- **Math and Science:** Four years of math, four years of English, four years of science, and four years of social studies (one of which can be substituted with foreign language, Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural heritage)
- **Social Sciences:** Three years of math, four years of English, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of the same foreign language or Alaska Native language

#### Step 2) MEET THE GPA AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL:

- For up to \$4,755 a year - a GPA of 3.5 and a score of 25 on the ACT or 1680 on the SAT\*
- For up to \$3,566 a year - a GPA of 3.0 and a score of 23 on the ACT or 1560 on the SAT\*
- For up to \$2,378 a year - a GPA of 2.5 and a score of 21 on the ACT or 1450 on the SAT\*

\*Students entering a career and technical education certificate program can substitute WorkKeys scores of 5 in applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information.

#### Step 3) APPLY:

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1, 2011, and before June 30, 2011. Students applying to a school that is not FAFSA-eligible may use an alternate application available from ACPE.

After an initial award, students can continue to be eligible to receive awards for up to a total of eight semesters by:

- filing a new FAFSA or approved alternate application by the deadline each year
- making satisfactory academic progress as set out in regulations (including number of credits earned and college GPA, if applicable)
- staying enrolled at least half time in a qualifying program of study

### WHEN will the scholarship be available?

Once the legislature appropriates funds, the high school graduating class of 2011 will be the first students eligible for the scholarships. The final funding level for the program should be determined no later than May 1, 2011.

