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Registered Apprenticeship Program Providers - APS Quick Reference Guide

What is the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)?

The APS is a merit-based scholarship available to qualifying Alaska high school students, which can be used to help cover the costs of postsecondary education or training in Alaska. A program of the State of Alaska, the APS is administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE).

Who can get the APS?

Alaska residents who graduate from an Alaska high school (public, private, or home school) in 2011 or later, and who meet the qualifying APS requirements prior to high school graduation, are eligible for the scholarship.

How does a student qualify for the Alaska Performance Scholarship?

Alaska residents qualify by taking a specific rigorous high school curriculum, earning a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and meeting minimum test score requirements on either the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys® exams. All APS requirements must be met prior to graduation from an Alaska high school (public, private, or home school).

How much is the scholarship?

There are three APS award levels: Level 1 = up to \$4,755 per certificate; Level 2 = up to \$3,566 per certificate; and Level 3 = up to \$2,378 per certificate. The amount for which a student may qualify is based on a combination of their GPA and test scores, the amount of APS funding available, and the student's unmet cost of attendance.

What costs does the APS cover?

The APS may be used to pay for costs of attendance not covered by other resources, including tuition and fees; books; equipment (including tools, uniforms, and other supplies); transportation (travel to training site); and room and board (or living expenses for students who do not contract with the school for room and board).

Can Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programsⁱ participate in the APS program?

Yes, RA programs are specifically mentioned in 8 AAC 81.010(4) as meeting the criteria for APS Career and Technical Education (CTE) certificate programs. RA program providers need to have a status – authorization or exemption from authorization – with ACPE and must meet the criteria under AS 14.43.830, 20 AAC 16.235, and 8 AAC 81. Applications, available from ACPE, require an executed program participation agreement; evidence of financial soundness and fiduciary responsibility for administering state scholarship money; and enrollment in the ACPE-approved electronic disbursement method; among other criteria. ACPE determines if the provider meets their regulatory requirements,



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and then collaborates with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), the agency responsible for approving the actual CTE certificate programs.

What is the application timeline for RA program providers?

- Application packets are available in early March.
- Submit by March 31 for priority review for July 1 program eligibility.
- Review of applications received after that date may be delayed.
- Determinations are made in approximately 10 – 15 business days, with some exceptions.
- If the RA program is approved before June 30, students may use their APS awards for programs beginning on or after July 1.
- Approvals are valid for two years.

If approved for participation in the APS, what are my responsibilities as a training program provider?

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Administer funds in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.
- Maintain appropriate documentation (student identity, academic eligibility information and other student records, etc.).
- Submit annual outcomes-related reporting to ACPE (e.g. number of recipients, dollars disbursed).
- Allow the State access to student, administrative, and financial records, for auditing purposes.
- Have a qualifying student advisory program (counseling students with respect to courses, academic progress, career options, and options to receive assistance for students with personal challenges), and document each APS recipient's participation in the advisory program.

Where can I get more information about APS program participation?

ACPE:

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DOLWD:

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ⁱ A "Registered Apprenticeship" is a U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) program that meets USDOL apprenticeship standards and has received their approval. Upon program completion, students earn a "Completion of Registered Apprenticeship" certificate, an industry-issued, nationally-recognized credential that validates proficiency in an apprenticeable occupation.