BP 5128 ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Note: Effective July 1, 2011, School districts must take certain steps to implement the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program. This Program provides scholarships for high school graduates who are Alaska residents to attend a qualified postsecondary institution in the state. School districts must determine scholarship eligibility for each graduating senior and record the eligibility level on the student's permanent record. The record must then be forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Development.

The Board supports and encourages all students to obtain higher education through enrollment in college or career and technical programs upon graduation. The Board believes that institutions within the State of Alaska provide strong and varied opportunities to meet the needs and interests of graduating students and further believes that state school attendance helps support a skilled, local workforce. The district supports student participation in the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program so that students may have maximum opportunity to obtain higher education within the State of Alaska.

Students and parents/guardians will be notified at least annually of the opportunities available through the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program. This notice should include information about scholarship eligibility levels; coursework, testing, and grade point average ("GPA") requirements; residency requirements; and the participating colleges and career and technical programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine scholarship eligibility for graduating students and will record the appropriate eligibility level on each student's permanent academic record. Students will be provided an opportunity to challenge an error in the eligibility determination. The academic record of graduating students will be transmitted to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to facilitate the award of scholarships.

(cf. 5125.2 - Challenging Student Records)

Note: In certain circumstances, the Commissioner may waive the curriculum requirements for a scholarship during a grace period of up to 24 additional months after graduation, during which time the student can complete curriculum requirements. A student may be awarded and utilize an Alaska Performance Scholarship during this period. A grace period may be granted to a student where the necessary curriculum was not reasonably available because the student attended a small and remote high school, or because of circumstances beyond the student's control, such as illness or disability. If a student is granted a grace period and elects not to enroll in a qualifying college or post-secondary program during that time, a school district may choose to "sponsor" the student. A sponsored student is allowed to enroll for the purpose of obtaining the missing curriculum requirement(s). A sponsored student may be included in the district's count for funding purposes so long as the student is under age 20 at the time of enrollment. Funding will be provided based on each missing curriculum

requirement. The following optional language is for those districts wishing to sponsor students.

Note: Effective June 6, 2015, the regulation providing for a grace period and waiver of curriculum requirements was repealed and a new section added to provide for students to request a scholarship eligibility extension. 4 AAC 43.035(repealed); 4 AAC 43.045 (extensions of eligibility period).

The Board approves the sponsorship of district graduates who have been granted a grace period by the Commissioner to meet curriculum requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program. Sponsored students will be permitted to enroll for the purpose of obtaining missing curriculum requirements, so long as the sponsored student is under the age of twenty (20) at the time of enrollment.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development may extend a student's scholarship eligibility period beyond six years after the date of the student's graduation from high school.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.113 District determination of scholarship eligibility

14.43.810-.849 Alaska Performance Scholarship Program

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 43.010-.900 Alaska Performance Scholarship Program

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ANNETTE ISLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT