



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

Division of Teaching and Learning Support

October 12, 2012

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Dear Superintendent:

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) course approval process has been modified to give school districts flexibility in determining if individual course curriculum meets the intent of APS. The Class of 2015 will be the first class to meet the final implementation process for the scholarship program.

Students have specific core courses they must take in order to be APS eligible, courses that are 1) college or industry preparatory courses; and 2) meet or exceed the standards and grade-level expectations for a high school course established in the department's publication. The Department of Education & Early Development (EED) expects school districts to use the ELA/Math Alaska Standards (2012). It is the school district's responsibility to ensure these additional courses meet the above expectations.

In order to assist districts in ensuring that courses meet the requirements of 4 AAC 43.030, the department has created a Sample Course Approval Form. This sample form is only for those rare cases in which a course may not clearly fall within the course names on the current APS course list. (See enclosed APS information sheet under course list). For example, your district may offer a "Shakespeare" course and there is no course named this under the APS list. Your district should then complete the APS sample course form, describing how this course may fall under a Language Arts class option and is aligned to state standards. These forms are for guidance purposes and if used, should be kept on file at your district office for potential EED audit purposes.

EED requires a matrix or spreadsheet listing APS approved courses to be submitted with enclosed assurance form. A sample matrix is enclosed for your review. A similar matrix should be made available to school district staff, families and students for APS preparation purposes.

EED staff is fully prepared to work with each school district to ensure the Class of 2015 and beyond fulfills the requirements of APS.

For more additional information please contact shari.paul@alaska.gov or (907)465.6535.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Prussing".

Paul Prussing, Director
Teaching and Learning Support
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development