



ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

OUTCOMES REPORT 2021

2011 – FALL 2020

RESPECTFULLY PROVIDED BY:

**Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
University of Alaska**

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Prepared For:
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
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Since 2011, the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) has rewarded Alaska students who excel in high school with over **\$88 million** in scholarships to help cover the cost of in-state postsecondary education. The APS has four primary objectives:

1. **Students excel in high school**
2. **Students are prepared for college or training**
3. **Students succeed in college**
4. **High-achieving students stay in Alaska**

High School Outcomes

The class of 2020 had the highest APS-eligibility rates since the scholarship's inception, with 37% of public high school graduates achieving eligibility. This reversal in the downward trend in eligibility over the past several years is very likely due to the temporary suspension of standardized testing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Along with higher eligibility rates, a lower percentage of class of 2020 eligible students used the APS in fall 2020 compared to previous graduating classes (24% in 2020 compared to 33% in 2019). This trend is consistent with lower enrollment across University of Alaska (UA) institutions, the postsecondary institution attended by the vast majority of APS recipients, likely related to the coronavirus pandemic.

In the class of 2020 APS-eligible student survey, **69% said APS made them more likely to achieve better grades** in high school, and over 60% said it made them more likely to both take placement exams (SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys) or prepare for placement exams.

Postsecondary Outcomes

Of first-time APS recipients enrolling at an institution in the UA system this fall, **95% were prepared to take college-level courses compared to 78% of other first-time students.**

Of APS recipients entering UA in fall 2018, **81% persisted into their second year, compared to 57% of other students.**

Of first-time, full-time APS recipients beginning their enrollment in fall 2014, **61% completed an undergraduate degree, certificate, or occupational endorsement within six years** compared to 29% of non-recipients.

Alaska Residency and Workforce Outcomes

Nine years after their high school graduation, **66% of former APS recipients from the Class of 2011 were Alaska residents** compared to 40% of APS eligible students who did not use the APS.

Of APS-eligible students surveyed from the class of 2020 who are currently enrolled in postsecondary education, **70% said the APS influenced their decision to stay in Alaska.**

APS ELIGIBILITY DEFINITIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The following definitions are used throughout this report.

Eligible refers to students who have met the APS requirements in high school and may be eligible for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) level only or for either the CTE level or collegiate level award. This category includes all eligible students, regardless of whether they use the APS award.

Ineligible refers to Alaska high school graduates who do not meet the high school GPA, curriculum, and standardized testing requirements.

Recipient refers to students who have used the APS award in at least one term.

Non-recipient refers to students who have not used APS for the reported term. This category includes students who were ineligible for the APS and those APS-eligible students who do not meet requirements for qualifying enrollment after high school or are otherwise not eligible to receive the APS award in the reported school term.

EXHIBIT 1

APS Eligibility Requirements:

Student eligibility and award levels are based on the following: GPA, standardized testing, and high school curriculum requirements. Standardized testing requirements were waived for the high school class of 2020 due to test cancellations related to the coronavirus pandemic. Visit [APS.Alaska.gov](https://aps.alaska.gov) for more information or to download eligibility checklists.

| | LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 3 |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| Award Amount | UP TO \$4,755 PER YR | UP TO \$3,566 PER YR | UP TO \$2,378 PER YR |
| Required GPA | 3.5 <i>or greater</i> | 3.0 <i>or greater</i> | 2.5 <i>or greater</i> |
| Required Testing ¹ <i>ACT/SAT used for degree or certificate</i> ² | ACT 25 · SAT 1210 | ACT 23 · SAT 1130 | ACT 21 · SAT 1060 |
| | <i>Standardized testing requirements were waived for high school class of 2020 due to test cancellations related to the coronavirus pandemic.</i> | | |
| WorkKeys used for certificate ³ only | WorkKeys 13 | WorkKeys 13 | WorkKeys 13 |
| | <i>A combination score of 13 or higher with no score below 4 is required in Applied Math, Locating Information, & Reading for Information</i> | | |
| Required High School Curriculum <i>Students can choose either curriculum option.</i> | Math & Science Science — 4 credits Math — 4 credits Social Studies — 4 credits Language Arts — 4 credits | | Social Studies & Language Arts Science — 3 credits Math — 3 credits Social Studies — 4 credits Language Arts — 4 credits World Language ³ — 2 credits |

NOTES:

- 1 · These requirements have been updated as of fall 2016. Students who took the SAT prior to March 2016 can qualify for APS on the previous 2400 scale (Level 1: 1680, Level 2: 1560, Level 3: 1450). Standardized testing requirements were waived for high school class of 2020 due to test cancellations related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2 · "Certificate" means a career & technical education certificate & does not include associate degrees.
- 3 · World Language courses include Alaska Native Language and American Sign Language

APS AWARDS

Since its inception in 2011, 23,852 Alaska public high school graduates have earned eligibility for the scholarship, representing approximately 29% of public high school graduates in Alaska. A total of 10,173 public high school graduates have received the APS award, representing 12% of all graduates, and 42% of all eligible students.

In fiscal year 2020, 2,835 students received the APS scholarship totaling nearly \$9.4 million awarded. Based on data through October 2020, 2,454 students have received the APS in fiscal year 2021 with an anticipated \$9.3 million awarded.¹ The number of recipients and total awarded have declined steadily over the past several fiscal years after peaking in 2017. Between 2017 and 2020, both the number of recipients and the amount awarded declined by 17%.

EXHIBIT 2

APS Total Dollars Awarded & Recipients Each Fiscal Year 2012-2020

| Year | Total Dollars Awarded | Recipients Each Award Year |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2012 | \$2,982,449 | 929 |
| 2013 | \$5,653,223 | 1,717 |
| 2014 | \$7,823,335 | 2,330 |
| 2015 | \$10,046,899 | 2,976 |
| 2016 | \$11,055,641 | 3,358 |
| 2017 | \$11,285,711 | 3,423 |
| 2018 | \$11,079,588 | 3,358 |
| 2019 | \$10,156,663 | 3,089 |
| 2020 | \$9,371,849 | 2,835 |
| 2021 ¹ | \$9,346,500 | 2,454 |
| TOTAL | \$88,801,857 | |

Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McDowell Group calculations.

APS-ELIGIBLE GRADUATES & RECIPIENTS

In 2020, eligibility rates for the Alaska performance Scholarship (APS) reached a new high of 37% of public high school graduates. Standardized testing requirements for APS eligibility were waived for the high school class of 2020 due to test cancellations related to the coronavirus pandemic. The temporary suspension of this requirement contributed to the increase in eligibility rates for the high school graduating class of 2020.

Eligibility rates have declined steadily since 2014, reaching a low of 23% in 2019 (Exhibit 3). Reasons for this general decline in APS-eligibility are unclear as there have been no corresponding changes in standardized testing participation rates or overall high school performance. Temporarily waiving standardized testing requirements likely contributed to an increased percentage of eligible students achieving the Level 1 award, which has the highest potential scholarship amount (Exhibit 4).

¹ Dollars awarded total for fiscal year 2021 estimated based on twice the partial fall disbursement amount and the number of APS recipients in the partial-year as of October 2020.

EXHIBIT 3

Percent of Public High School Graduates Eligible for APS, by Graduating Class

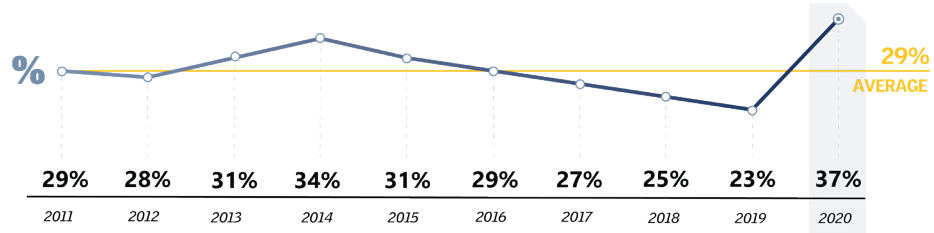
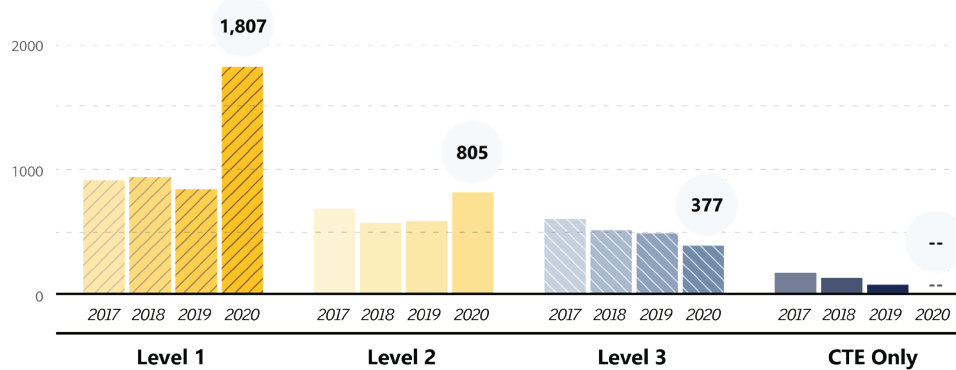


EXHIBIT 4

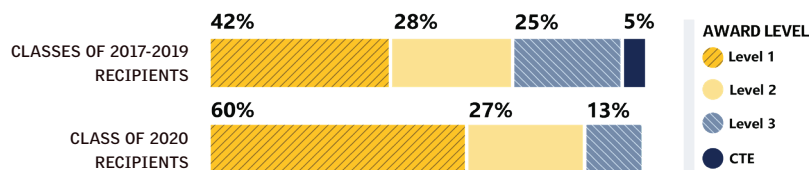
Public High School Classes of 2017-2020 APS Eligibility & 2020 Totals, by Level



In previous years, about 40% of eligible students achieved Level 1 eligibility, while 60% of 2020 high school graduates were eligible for the Level 1 award. No 2020 graduates were eligible only for the CTE award due to the temporary change in standardized testing requirements (Exhibit 5). All regions experienced an increase in eligibility. Of APS-eligible graduates in the class of 2020, 24% have since enrolled at a qualifying Alaska postsecondary institution (Exhibit 6). Despite an increase in APS-eligible public school graduates with the class of 2020, the percentage of Alaska graduates using APS in the fall following high school graduation was lower than rates for previous graduating classes. Across the University of Alaska (UA) system, enrollment declined in fall 2020 compared to fall 2019.² Several factors may contribute to declining rates of APS use, including students deferring enrollment due to pandemic-related factors.

EXHIBIT 5

Percentage of Public High School APS Recipients by Level, 2017-2019 & 2020



Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McDowell Group calculations.

² University of Alaska Board of Regents – Meeting Minutes September 10-11, 2020. <https://www.alaska.edu/bor/minutes/2020/200910-11%20Official%20Minutes.pdf>

INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY & THE FUTURE OF APS



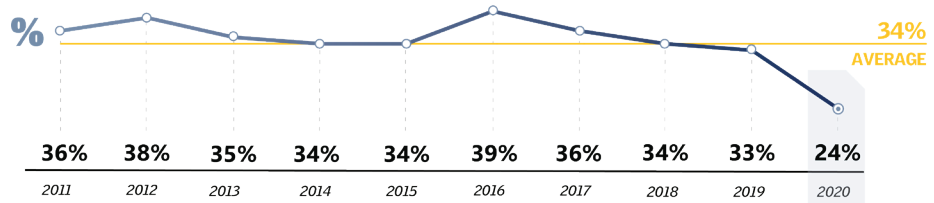
Class of 2020 saw a *14% increase in APS eligibility* as an unintended consequence of suspending the standardized testing requirement, resulting in greater accessibility to the scholarship.



Does increased accessibility have an impact on APS use? Questions like this will be explored in a separate, coincidentally-timed program assessment report that is currently underway, looking back on the past decade of the APS program to determine what the APS program should look like going into the future.

EXHIBIT 6

Percent of Public APS-Eligible Graduates Using APS the Fall Following Graduation, 2011-2020



Scholarship eligibility rates by region are shown in Exhibit 7. The proportion of eligible students receiving the scholarship by region are shown in Exhibit 8. Among 2020 public high school graduates, the Interior region had the highest proportion of eligible students receiving the scholarship in fall 2020 (32%). Southwest was the only region in which the proportion of eligible graduates using the APS in the fall increased in 2020 (28%) compared to 2019 (24%).

EXHIBIT 7

Public High School Graduate APS Eligibility Rates by Region, 2017-2020

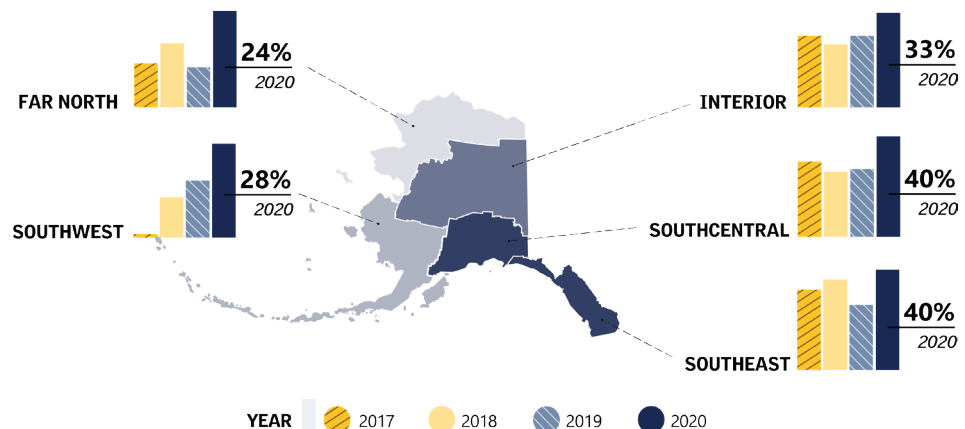
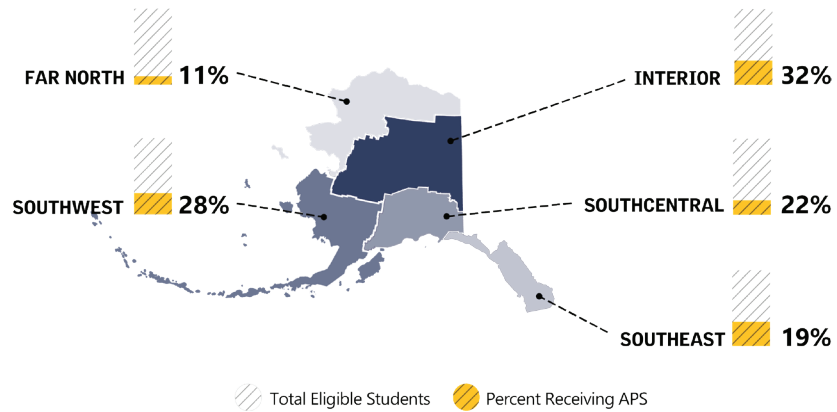


EXHIBIT 8

Percent of APS-Eligible Students Receiving APS Fall Following Graduation by Region, 2020



SURVEY OF APS-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS FROM CLASS OF 2020

APS-eligible graduates from the class of 2020 were surveyed in fall 2020 to understand how the program may have impacted their high school experience, their enrollment in college or vocational training, and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of respondents, 69% reported the availability of APS made them more likely to achieve better grades in high school (Exhibit 9). Despite the standardized testing requirements being waived in 2020, 66% said it made them more likely to take placement exams. Among students currently enrolled in postsecondary education, 70% said the APS influenced their decision to attend an in-state school, and 63% said the program influenced their decision on whether to take out student loans or how much to borrow (Exhibit 10).

EXHIBIT 9

Class of 2020 APS Survey:

"Did the availability of APS make you more likely to do any of the following in high school?"

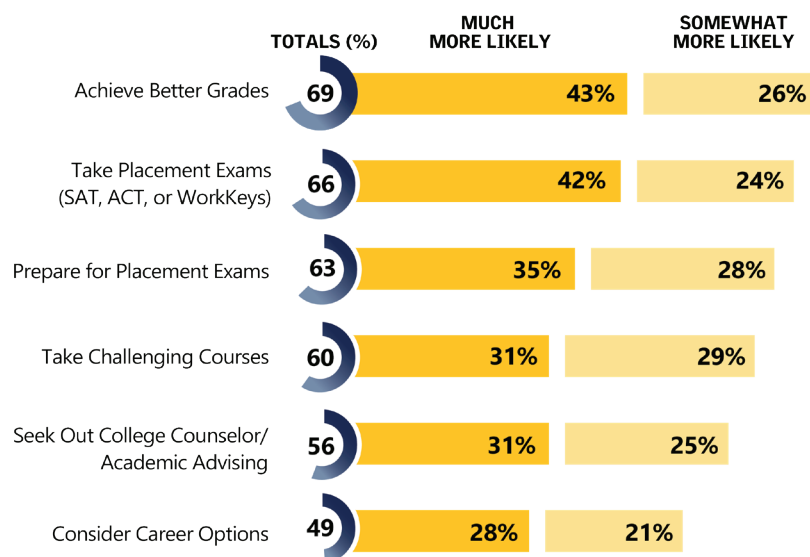
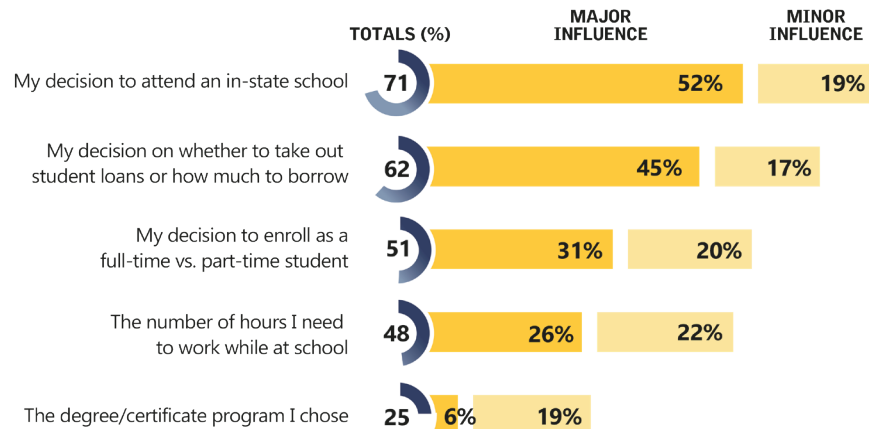


EXHIBIT 10

Class of 2020 APS Survey:

"How much of an influence was the APS in the following decisions?"



When asked to consider why they would recommend the APS to high school students, survey respondents routinely recommended that the program lifted significant financial stress and provided better opportunity to attend postsecondary education (Exhibit 11). Compiled in Exhibit 12 are selected comments regarding different motivations for recommending the APS.

EXHIBIT 11

Class of 2020 APS Survey:

"Would you recommend the APS to current high school students?"

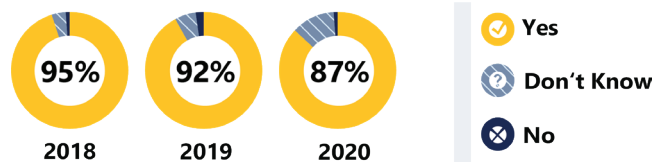


EXHIBIT 12

HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Class of 2020 APS Survey: Reasons for Recommending the APS

This scholarship motivated me in high school to get good grades and is helping me stay out of debt while in college. The work to get it was worth it.

The APS program has significantly increased my confidence and ability to work hard and be successful in college. It is a great benefit that anyone can have if they try hard enough to reach for their dreams.

I would highly recommend this scholarship as it had such an impact on my performance in high school, I graduated with valedictorian because I kept pushing myself. This scholarship has a little something for everyone as there are 3 levels of an award.

HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Your hard work is truly paid off by the Alaska Performance Scholarship. It is such a good motivation to do well in school because this is a great scholarship for future postsecondary goals.

The APS was the best scholarship I received. It motivated me to take more challenging classes in high school and keep my grades up which definitely helped me prepare for college.

The APS allows students to have a major part of their in-state college expenses paid for. As well as, encouraging students to work more for better grades. The APS is one of the best programs that the Alaskan government has to offer for the new generations.

For anyone who doesn't think that your high school grades can affect college is wrong, working hard in school so I could receive this scholarship got rid of so much stress for me going into college and definitely makes me want to work harder to continue to be eligible.

ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Receiving this scholarship helped pay for my tuition and attending college at a university I never thought I'd go to.

It helps ease the financial burden of education on students and their families.

It gives students in low-income families a chance to be able to seek higher education and to have a better life for themselves and others they care about.

It makes pursuing higher education more accessible for all students who want to work hard to achieve it.

The Alaska performance scholarship gave me the needs necessary to comfortably continue my education as I would not have been able to without the extra funding from the scholarship.

I have worked since I was 16 to provide money for my family, but the APS scholarship lifted some of the stress of worrying about bills. This scholarship has helped out so much for me and my family, and I hope it will help many more people to come in the future.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship made focusing on my education in college so much easier. Without it, I'd be working and possibly only going to university part time. It's lifted such a large stress off of my shoulders.

RETAINING STUDENTS IN ALASKA

It's a great way to keep Alaska's best in state and give them a once in a lifetime opportunity to have college mostly paid for.

[The APS] is a great way to encourage students to study from home and overall have a cheaper lifestyle, allowing students to save money for the future and limit student debt. Studying in Alaska could also allow a student to keep working a job while attending college, helping those who may not have considered going to college for economic reasons.

The APS Scholarship can help students make or break the decision to go to a post-secondary educational institution in Alaska, it is worth a great deal to most high school students.

This scholarship made it completely worth it for me to stay in Alaska. This has provided me the opportunity to pursue college while still saving enough money to be financially stable in the future.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In 2020, APS-eligible students were also asked about potential impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on their postsecondary enrollment decisions. About one-third (32%) of 2020 APS-eligible graduates said COVID-19 affected their decision to enroll at an Alaska postsecondary institution this year (Exhibit 13). Most students (66%) indicated that the pandemic had some impact on their postsecondary education plans, including 34% who enrolled in online-only learning and 33% who decided to stay in Alaska (Exhibit 14). Many students indicated they and their families have been financially impacted personally by the COVID-19 pandemic, and 69% said APS was important in offsetting these personal impacts (Exhibit 15).

EXHIBIT 13

Did uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic affect your decision to enroll in an Alaska postsecondary institution this year?

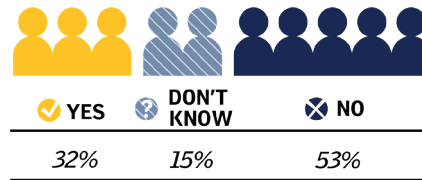
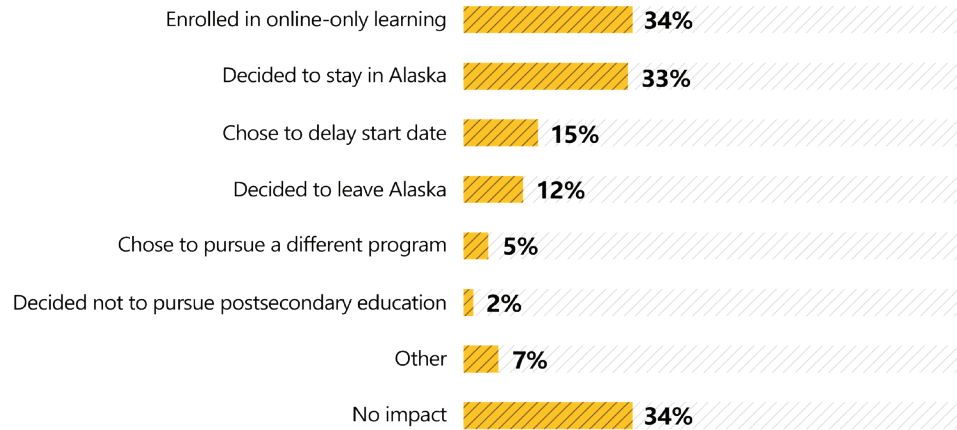


EXHIBIT 14

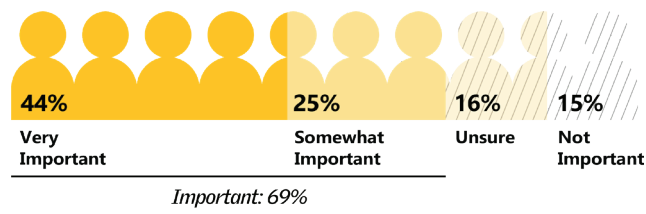
Describe how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted your postsecondary education plans.



NOTE: Columns do not add to 100% due to multiple selections allowed

EXHIBIT 15

To support your planning to cover the cost of college or training, how important is the APS in offsetting the economic impact caused by COVID-19?



STUDENT RESPONSE TO COVID



In response to the pandemic, students primarily altered their college plans by *remaining in Alaska* and *enrolling in online learning*.

The majority of students viewed the APS as a *key resource* for offsetting financial burdens and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic.



APS & POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES

Among APS recipients in FY2021, 96% attended University of Alaska institutions, with 59% attending University of Alaska Anchorage, 31% attending University of Alaska Fairbanks, and 5% attending University of Alaska Southeast (Exhibit 16).

Of this year's fall 2020 APS recipients attending postsecondary education:

- 20% are first-generation students
- 43% are male, 57% are female
- 10% are Alaska Native/American Indian, and 10% identify with two or more races (Exhibit 17).

EXHIBIT 16

APS Recipients Attending Postsecondary in Alaska by Institution, FY2017-FY2020 & Preliminary FY2021¹

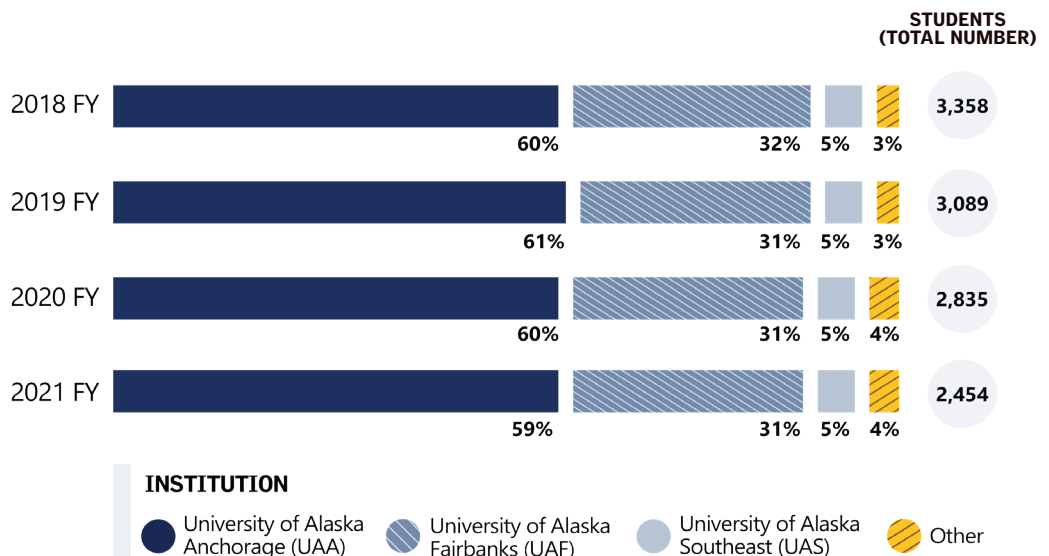
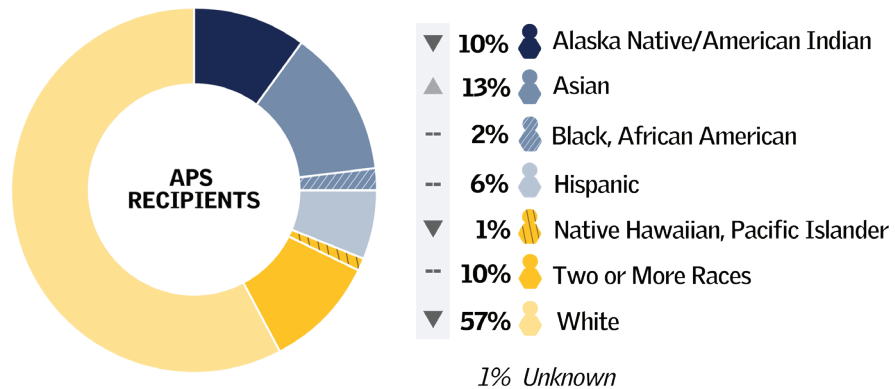
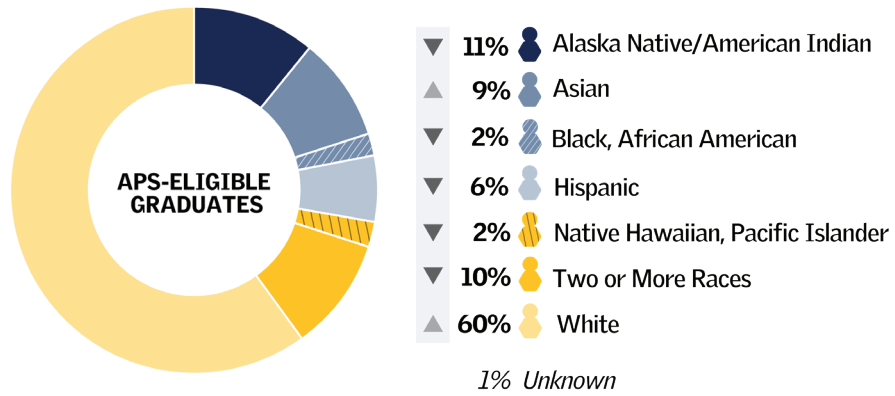
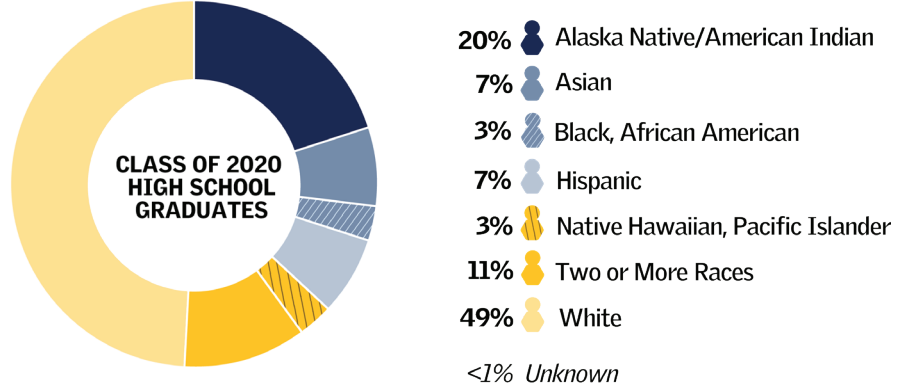


EXHIBIT 17

Class of 2020 Public High School Graduates, APS-eligible Graduates, & Recipients, by Race/Ethnicity. Arrows indicate increase (▲), decrease (▼), or no change (--) in the proportion of an ethnic group from all Class of 2020 Graduates to APS-eligible Graduates, and from APS-eligible graduates to APS Recipients.



APS RECIPIENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

A stated goal of the APS is to ensure students are prepared for college or technical training. Compared to other first-time students enrolled at UA in fall 2020, a significantly lower percentage of APS recipients required developmental coursework (Exhibit 18). Another program goal is for students to succeed in college. On average, APS recipients attempt and complete more credit hours per year compared to other first-time freshmen (Exhibit 19). APS recipients entering in fall 2019 completed 84% of attempted credits compared to 66% among other students.

EXHIBIT 18

Percent of Enrolled First-Time Freshmen at UA from the Class of 2020
Needing Developmental Coursework, Fall 2020

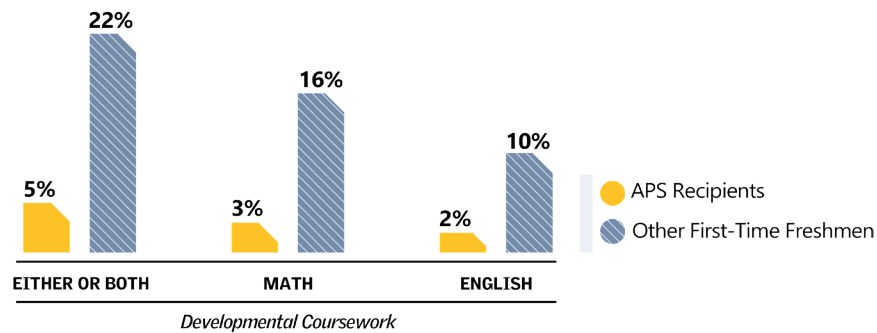
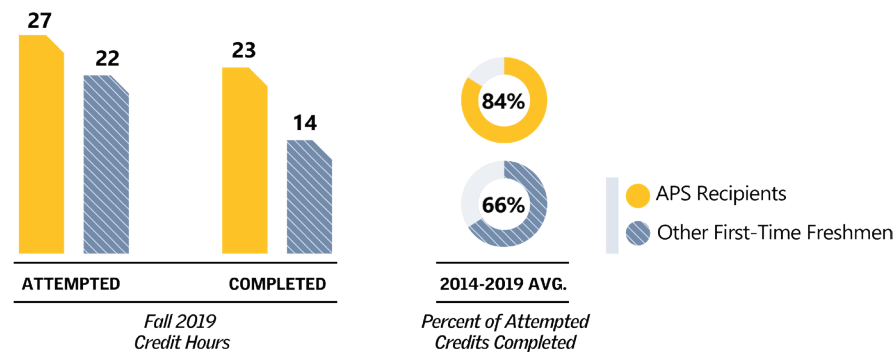


EXHIBIT 19

Average Credit Hours Attempted and Completed by High School Class, 2014-2019



Source: Data supplied by universities via UA Information Systems: UA Decision Support Database (RPTP.DSDMGR) Fall 2011 - Fall 2020. Compiled by UA Data Strategy & Institutional Research Department.

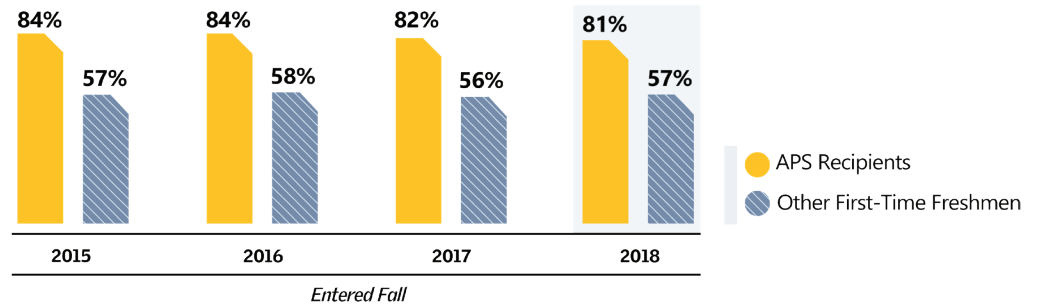
APS recipients return for a second year of postsecondary education at higher rates compared to other first-time freshmen. Of those entering in fall 2018 (academic year 2018-2019), 85% of APS recipients re-enrolled in fall 2019 (academic year 2019-2020) compared to 72% of non-recipients (Exhibit 20).

Completion rates are another way to track college success. Of first-time, full-time freshmen entering UA in fall 2014, 61% of APS recipients graduated with any undergraduate degree, certificate, or occupational endorsement within six years, compared to 29% of other students (Exhibit 21). The most recent available national six-year completion rate was 33.6% for degree-seeking students at comparable institutions.³

³ National Center for Education Statistics. Annual Report 2019. National graduation rates are based on first-time students entering public, four-year institutions with open admissions in 2012.

EXHIBIT 20

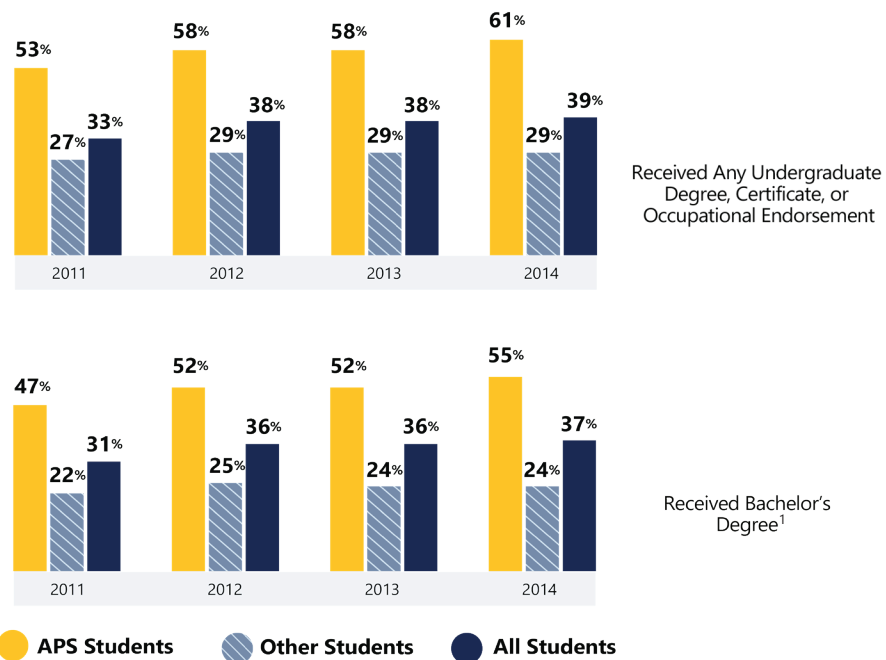
Percent of First-Time Freshmen at UA Who Persisted Into a Second Year, 2015-2018



Source: Data supplied by universities via UA Information Systems: UA Decision Support Database (RPTP.DSDMGR) Fall 2011 - Fall 2020. Compiled by UA Data Strategy & Institutional Research Department.

EXHIBIT 21

Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Six-Year Graduation Rates by High School Class, 2011-2014



Source: Data supplied by universities via UA Information Systems: UA Decision Support Database (RPTP.DSDMGR) Fall 2011 - Fall 2020. Compiled by UA Data Strategy & Institutional Research Department.

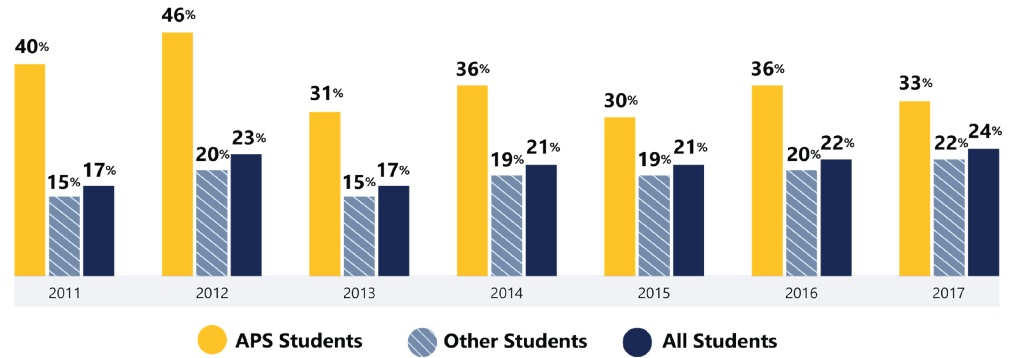
NOTE: 1 - Based on bachelor's degree-seeking first-time, full-time students.

APS recipients also have higher completion rates for programs designed to be completed in two years or less. Of public high school graduates in the class of 2017 attending such programs, 33% of APS recipients graduated from the program within three years, compared to 22% of other first-time students (Exhibit 22). While not directly comparable, the nationwide three-year graduation rate for first-time students attending public, two-year institutions was 27% for students entering in 2015, the most recent year available.⁴ Exhibit 23 provides preliminary characteristics of first-time students entering UA in fall 2020.

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics. Annual Report 2019. National graduation rates are based on first-time students entering public, two-year institutions in 2015.

EXHIBIT 22

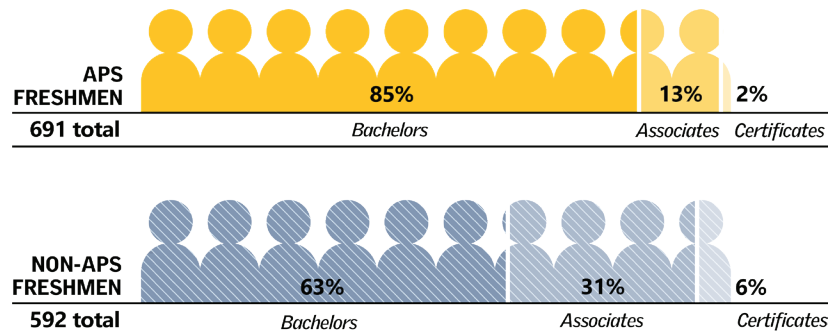
Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Three Year Graduate Rate for Two-Year or Less Programs by High School Class, 2011-2017



Source: Data supplied by universities via UA Information Systems: UA Decision Support Database (RPTP.DSDMGR) Fall 2011 - Fall 2020. Compiled by UA Data Strategy & Institutional Research Department.

EXHIBIT 23

Recent Alaska High School Graduates Entering University of Alaska by Degree Level Sought, Class of 2020



Source: Data supplied by universities via UA Information Systems: UA Decision Support Database (RPTP.DSDMGR) Fall 2011 - Fall 2020. Compiled by UA Data Strategy & Institutional Research Department.

RECIPIENTS AT UA — A TESTAMENT TO APS SUCCESS

APS RECIPIENTS AT UA...



- 17%

Fewer APS recipients require developmental coursework (CLASS OF 2020)



+24%

Higher retention of APS recipients from first to second year (COMBINED 2015-2018)

Greater amount of APS recipient freshmen pursue Bachelor's degree programs (CLASS OF 2020)

+22%



Higher graduation rates of APS recipients pursuing Bachelor's degrees (COMBINED 2011-2014)

+28%



APS & ALASKA RESIDENCY OUTCOMES

One goal of the APS program is to help the state retain high-achieving Alaska high school graduates. APS recipients have higher Alaska residency rates compared to ineligible students, as well as those who were eligible but did not use the APS (Exhibit 24). About 66% of high school class of 2011 APS recipients were Alaska residents in 2020, compared to 61% of all high school graduates, and 40% of those who were APS-eligible but did not use the award.

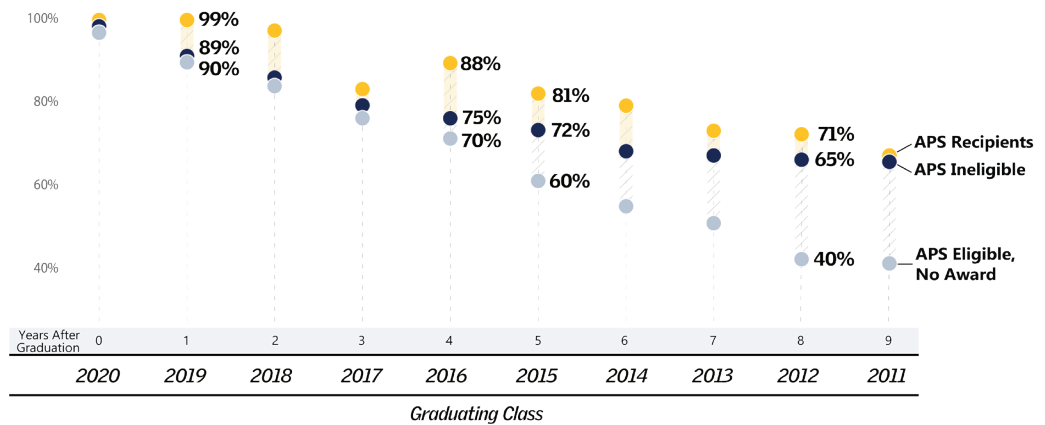
HIGHER RESIDENCY RATES FOR APS RECIPIENTS

+8%
HIGHER AVERAGE RESIDENCY 1-6 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION
 (CLASSES 2019-2014)

Residency rates 6 years after graduation were 78% for APS recipients and 67% for APS ineligible students.

EXHIBIT 24

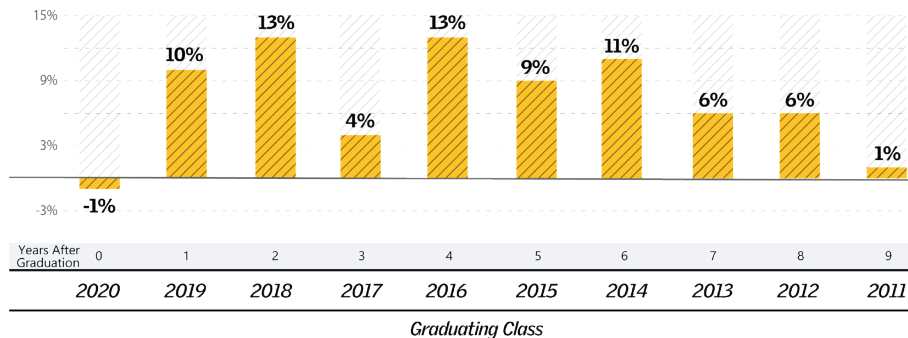
Percentage of Alaska High School Graduates Who Applied for PFD in 2020 by Class and APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2011-2020



Source: Alaska Department of Revenue Permanent Fund Dividend Applicant Database 2020

EXHIBIT 25

Percentage Difference of APS Recipients and APS Ineligible Alaska High School Graduates Who Applied for PFD in 2020, Classes of 2011-2020



APS RECIPIENTS IN THE ALASKA WORKFORCE

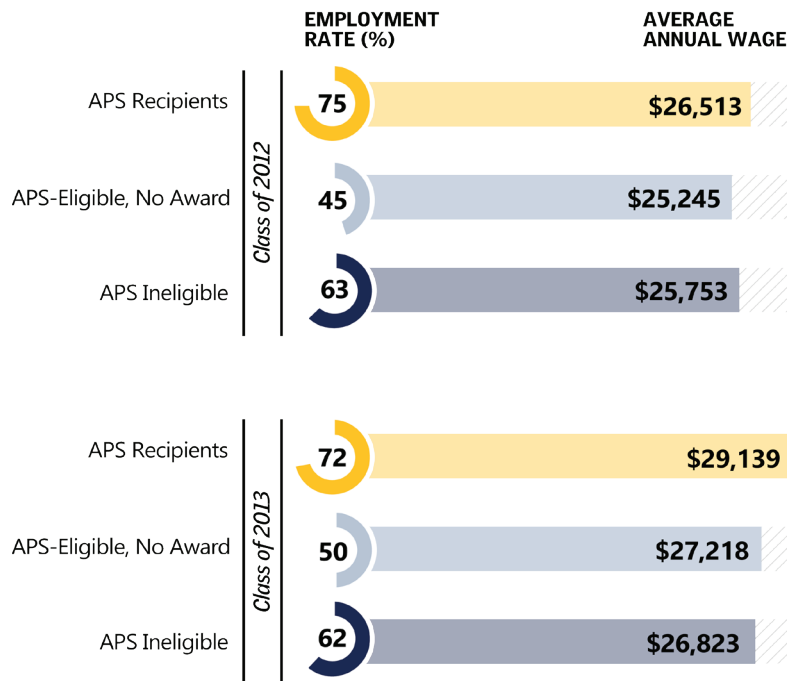
Another measure of the state’s retention of high-achieving students is employment in the Alaska labor force. Based on analysis by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, APS recipients had the highest rate of employment in Alaska compared to ineligible graduates or APS-eligible graduates who did not use the APS (Exhibit 26). Six years after high school graduation, 75% of APS recipients from the class of 2012 and 72% of recipients from the class of 2013 were employed in the Alaska workforce.

Among high school graduates in the Alaska workforce in FY2019, APS recipients earned slightly higher average wages than their ineligible peers and those who were eligible but did not use the APS.

Exhibit 27 lists the top occupations of former Alaska high school graduates from the classes of 2012-2014 working in Alaska in FY2019.

EXHIBIT 26

Percent of Graduates Employed in Alaska and Average Annual Wages by High School Graduating Class and APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2012 and 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

TOP OCCUPATIONS IN ALASKA

(AMONG HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FY2019, CLASSES 2012-2014 COMBINED)

27%

Retail Sales Workers

17%

Food & Beverage Serving Workers

18%

Other Office & Administrative Support Workers

17%

Information & Record Clerks

EXHIBIT 27

Top Occupations in Alaska Among High School Graduates in FY2019 by APS-Eligibility Status, Classes of 2012-2014 Combined

TOP 3 OCCUPATIONS

- APS Eligible
- APS Eligible - No Award
- APS Ineligible

| <i>Occupation</i> | APS RECIPIENTS | APS ELIGIBLE, NO AWARD | APS INELIGIBLE |
|---|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Other Occupations</i> | 53% | 51% | 46% |
| <i>Retail Sales Workers</i> | 8% | 8% | 11% |
| <i>Information & Record Clerks</i> | 6% | 6% | 5% |
| <i>Other Office & Administrative Support Workers</i> | 6% | 7% | 5% |
| <i>Food & Beverage Serving Workers</i> | 5% | 7% | 6% |
| <i>Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners</i> | 4% | 2% | * |
| <i>Other Healthcare Support Occupations</i> | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| <i>Other Educational Instruction & Library Occupations</i> | 3% | 2% | |
| <i>Financial Clerks</i> | 3% | 4% | 3% |
| <i>Engineers</i> | 3% | * | * |
| <i>Drafters, Engineering Technicians, & Mapping Technicians</i> | 3% | * | * |
| <i>Secretaries & Administrative Assistants</i> | 3% | 3% | * |
| <i>Construction Trades Workers</i> | * | 4% | 6% |
| <i>Material Moving Workers</i> | * | 2% | 5% |
| <i>Home Health & Personal Care Aides (Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, & Psychiatric Aides)</i> | * | * | 3% |
| <i>Cooks & Food Preparation Workers</i> | * | * | 3% |
| <i>Building Cleaning & Pest Control Workers</i> | * | * | 3% |

NOTE: Occupations that did not fall in the top 12 for either APS Eligible, APS Eligible - No Award, or APS Ineligible student categories are indicated by "*".

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is designed to reward Alaska students who excel in high school with scholarships to help cover the cost of postsecondary education in state. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) contracted with McDowell Group to prepare the 2021 APS Outcomes Report.

Methodology

Several data sources are used throughout this report. ACPE provided McDowell Group with student-level data from the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP). Data was analyzed by McDowell Group to describe the demographics, APS-eligibility, and APS use by Alaska high school graduates. ASAP data were provided for academic years 2011-2012 through 2020-2021. Academic year 2020-2021 data are considered preliminary as of October 2020. Additional data on the total number and demographics of Alaska public high school graduates were provided by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

ACPE requested student enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). McDowell Group used student-level ASAP and NSC data to request aggregated data on the percentage of Alaska high school graduates in the state workforce as of FY2019 from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD).

In October-November 2020, ACPE surveyed the class of 2020 APS-eligible students to better understand how the APS impacted their high school decisions. The survey was sent to students via email. APS sent survey invitations to 2,631 high school graduates and received responses from 436 students.

ACPE requested aggregated data on educational persistence, credit hours attempted and achieved, and other characteristics from the University of Alaska (UA) for inclusion in the report. Student-level data were analyzed by the University of Alaska Data Strategy and Institutional Research Department and provided to McDowell Group in summarized form.



APPENDIX B

Public School Class of 2020 APS Headcounts, by School District

| <i>School District</i> | <i>Class of 2020 High School Graduates</i> | <i>APS-Eligible Graduates</i> | <i>Fall of 2020 APS Recipients</i> | <i>APS Award Amount</i> |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alaska Gateway | 16 | 7 | * | * |
| Aleutian Region | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Aleutians East Borough | 17 | 5 | * | * |
| Anchorage | 2,880 | 1,102 | 231 | \$463,784 |
| Annette Island | 18 | * | * | * |
| Bering Strait | 94 | 8 | * | * |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 6 | * | * | * |
| Chatham | 11 | 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Chugach | 30 | 27 | 9 | \$20,213 |
| Copper River | 25 | 10 | * | * |
| Cordova City | 31 | 12 | * | * |
| Craig City | 32 | 12 | 5 | \$10,106 |
| Delta/Greely | 47 | 15 | * | * |
| Denali Borough | 55 | 6 | * | * |
| Dillingham City | 18 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 689 | 290 | 103 | \$212,528 |
| Galena City | 408 | 134 | 30 | \$67,178 |
| Haines Borough | 25 | 10 | * | * |
| Hoonah City | 4 | 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Hydaburg City | 8 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Iditarod Area | 5 | 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Juneau Borough | 298 | 107 | 18 | \$36,855 |
| Kake City | 5 | * | * | * |
| Kashunamiut | 15 | 10 | * | * |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 589 | 238 | 59 | \$126,921 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 130 | 45 | 6 | \$12,483 |
| Klawock City | 13 | * | * | * |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 159 | 65 | 19 | \$37,748 |
| Kuspuk | 12 | * | * | * |

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by "**"

Public School Class of 2020 APS Headcounts, by School District — CONTINUED

| <i>School District</i> | <i>Class of 2019 High School Graduate</i> | <i>APS-Eligible Graduates</i> | <i>Fall of 2019 APS Recipients</i> | <i>APS Award Amount</i> |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Lake and Peninsula Borough | 18 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Lower Kuskokwim | 175 | 39 | 15 | \$33,290 |
| Lower Yukon | 82 | 5 | * | * |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 1,143 | 507 | 112 | \$236,898 |
| Mount Edgecumbe | 94 | 67 | 17 | \$32,991 |
| Nenana City | 134 | 13 | 9 | \$20,213 |
| Nome Public Schools | 33 | 14 | * | * |
| North Slope Borough | 104 | 41 | * | * |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 92 | 17 | * | * |
| Pelican City | 1 | * | * | * |
| Petersburg Borough | 36 | 22 | * | * |
| Pribilof | 1 | * | * | * |
| Saint Mary's | 7 | * | * | * |
| Sitka | 77 | 28 | 5 | \$8,620 |
| Skagway | 4 | * | * | * |
| Southeast Island | 11 | * | * | * |
| Southwest Region | 30 | * | * | * |
| Tanana City | 2 | * | * | * |
| Unalaska City | 35 | 24 | * | * |
| Valdez City | 46 | 24 | 12 | \$25,562 |
| Wrangell Public Schools | 27 | 12 | * | * |
| Yakutat | 5 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Yukon Flats | 12 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk | 151 | 32 | 12 | \$23,780 |
| Yupitit | 24 | * | 0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL | 7,984 | 2,989 | 707 | \$1,459,530 |

Note: Data have been suppressed to protect student confidentiality, indicated by "**"

Source: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education – Alaska Student Aid Portal data and McDowell Group calculations.