



## Statement of Support

### APS Legislation - CS HB 148(EDC) & CSSB 56 (EDC)

AlaskaCAN strongly supports the companion bills CSSB 56 (EDC) and CSHB 148 (EDC), currently moving through the Finance Committees of each legislative body.

AlaskaCAN membership supports these important changes outlined in the [10-year APS Review and Recommendations Report](#):

- Remove standardized test score (ACT, SAT, Workkeys) requirement
- Eliminate the distinction between “collegiate” and “CTE” award tracks
- Provide earlier award eligibility notification during Junior year
- Increase award amounts in response to increased cost of attendance
- Expand term of use from 6-8 years

Standardized tests have long been a barrier for many students, whether it be test anxiety, cost, or accessibility. Removing this requirement will expand access to the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) for more students, reducing the primary barrier to access: funding.

Eliminating the distinction between “collegiate” and “CTE” award tracks tells students that all career pathways are equally important. This is especially important at a time when many skilled workers are retiring and our workforce is facing shortages.

Early high school notification about how to prepare for the APS award makes it easier for more students to lower college and career training costs.

Increased award amounts will help keep students in Alaska by making the APS award more competitive with other institutional funding. Students who study in Alaska tend to stay in Alaska, where building up a strong workforce is vital to our economy.

Expanding the time available to use the APS award provides flexibility for students who may need to delay studies, choose to spend part of their time studying outside of Alaska, and return for their graduate work and subsequent career. It is also helpful for students wanting to travel first or those who need to attend half-time due to family or work obligations.

Implementing these changes will reduce barriers to postsecondary access, making career training more easily attainable for Alaskan students. Well-trained students will yield a well-prepared Alaskan workforce and a stronger economy.

*AlaskaCAN is a member-based organization that promotes education and training opportunities across Alaska. Our purpose is to advocate for Alaskans to pursue postsecondary workforce development pathways. We bring together partner organizations to identify and help reduce barriers to access and completion.*