



# UPDATES

Sept 2013

Keeping you informed on APS news.

Welcome back to school!

The summer months allowed me to work with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) on our first Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) Updates newsletter. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date on APS news that will be beneficial in working with your families and students. These newsletters will be short and pertinent because I know you are all extremely busy.

Remember - [APS.alaska.gov](http://APS.alaska.gov) remains a valuable resource for the latest APS information and for all documents to assist school district staff in working with students. There is a dedicated section on the website for school districts. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

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## NEW APS ELIGIBILITY CHECKLISTS AT APS.ALASKA.GOV

The APS Eligibility Checklists have been split into two distinct options – *Career & Technical Eligibility Checklist* and *Collegiate Eligibility Checklist*. The checklist's flip side is full of information and tips for how proceed after qualifying for the APS, and how to stay on track. These new checklist may also be filled out on-line.  
*Feedback? Please let us know what you think of these new forms.*

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## APS COURSE MATRIX

Beginning with the Class of 2015 (*your current juniors*), specific course requirements for APS eligibility are in effect. Each school district is responsible for providing students with a complete list of courses that qualify for the APS. This course list should be posted on your school district website.

*If your school district has not completed your APS Course Matrix, contact your District Curriculum Director or Principal to learn when it will be available.*



For more information or  
to sign up for emailed APS Updates go to: [APS.alaska.gov](http://APS.alaska.gov)





## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSEWORK

Remember – due to APS statute changes made in 2012, middle school courses that meet the core academic curriculum of high school-level coursework and are reported on a student's high school transcript *may* qualify toward APS eligibility. For a course to be eligible, the school district *must* approve the course content as comparable to APS-eligible high school courses. Check with your School District to verify which middle school courses meet APS guidelines.

## APS POSTERS & DIRECT MAIL

In early Fall, APS eligibility requirement posters will be mailed to each school with 9-12 enrollment. Please display these in a prominent location to assist staff and students preparing to qualify for the APS. The poster features information on the specific course requirements for the Classes of 2015 and beyond and includes space for you to write in (or append) district-specific course information. Also in early Fall, APS postcards encouraging students to talk to their counselor about the APS will be direct mailed to all Alaska High School Seniors.

## ALASKA'S LEARNING NETWORK

Alaska's Learning Network continues to develop courses for high school students statewide, responding to the needs of districts and specifically focusing on courses that meet Alaska Performance Scholarship requirements. In the 2013-2014 school year, AKLN will offer over 40 high school courses, some developed by Alaskan educators, and all taught by Alaskan educators. Operated by UAS, AKLN provides professional development opportunities for teachers, as well as dual credit opportunities for high school students. A variety of career and technical education courses are available as well as some engaging elective options. Visit [aklearn.net](http://aklearn.net) to learn more.

## APS FAMILY AND STAFF WEBINAR

ACPE & EED are happy to make APS Family and Staff webinars available for your school. With the final phase of APS requirements now in effect for the Class of 2015, timing is excellent to ensure all families and staff are aware of the full APS requirements, including curriculum. This 30-minute presentation to families will help alleviate the myriad questions you are asked about the APS. We are able to accommodate a variety of schedules to offer webinars at a time most convenient to you and your students' families.

Two APS webinars are already scheduled for September - on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Students, parents, and educators are all welcome. To sign up - go to [APS.alaska.gov](http://APS.alaska.gov) and click the registration link for the webinar you would like to attend.

Sign up for e-mail APS updates at [APS.alaska.gov](http://APS.alaska.gov).

