

State of Alaska FY2023 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Education and Early Development State Financial Aid Programs Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

State Financial Aid Programs Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

To provide performance-based scholarships and need-based grants to Alaskans to help access postsecondary opportunities.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2021

- Disbursed funding for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG);
- Enhanced the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP), a web-based financial aid management system that provides eligible Alaskans with information about their individual APS and/or AEG accounts;
- ASAP, functioning as the financial aid management tool for participating postsecondary institutions for online certification of student enrollment and continuing eligibility, enabled paperless aid disbursement through schools to participating students, and was used to deliver approximately \$9.3 million to nearly 2,800 APS recipients and \$5.8 million to just under 2,700 AEG recipients; and
- Produced the 2020 APS Outcomes Report on the first nine high school graduate cohorts, documenting significant positive program impacts specifically that APS students take more credits and need less remediation, persist in their studies, and stay in Alaska at higher rates, compared to their non-APS peers.

Key RDU Challenges

- The COVID-19 health pandemic resulted in the cancelation of ACT, SAT and WorkKeys standardized tests around the state impacting class of 2021 graduates' ability to qualify for the APS. The standardized testing requirement for the class of 2021 was waived to mitigate the impact on students;
- Inability to receive student performance data from high schools prevents early outreach to high school juniors and seniors about potential APS eligibility and importance of staying on track;
- Effecting a statewide culture that values higher education and understands the importance of taking a rigorous high school curriculum;
- A student's lack of awareness regarding timeline and preparation necessary for APS eligibility and recognition of the extent of the award, in terms of its full amount students can be eligible for; and
- Ensuring adequate preparation and course availability at district levels for students to have access to the curriculum requirements for eligibility and necessity of earlier outreach and preparation academically, prior to senior year.
- Uncertainty of funding for the APS and AEG through the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF).

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2023

- With information from the review of outcomes for the first decade of the APS program, make improvements to the program to increase eligibility and use of the scholarship;
- Ongoing expended use of email and other electronic communications to reduce costs of communicating with customers;
- Further streamlining of APS outcomes reporting protocols to reduce costs of reporting;
- Further improvements to ASAP to provide streamlined processing and reduce the need for costly manual processing; and
- Updated education programs for teachers, counselors, and other mentors assisting students with becoming APS-eligible.

Contact Information

Contact Information

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**State Financial Aid Programs
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2021 Actuals				FY2022 Management Plan				FY2023 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
AK Perf Scholarship Awd	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11,750.0	0.0	0.0	11,750.0
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Alaska Education Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5,841.8	0.0	0.0	5,841.8
Totals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,591.8	0.0	0.0	17,591.8

State Financial Aid Programs
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2022 Management Plan to FY2023 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2022 Management Plan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Base for structure changes:					
-AK Perf Scholarship Awd	0.0	11,750.0	0.0	0.0	11,750.0
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-AK Perf Scholarship Awd	11,750.0	-11,750.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-Alaska Education Grants	5,841.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5,841.8
FY2023 Governor	17,591.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	17,591.8