



UA strongly supports replenishing the Higher Education Investment Fund, and maintaining its long-term stability

Academic and Economic Progress

The Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund, and the financial assistance it provides, has been a tremendous success. The initiative has made high school curriculum more rigorous, provided incentive for middle and high school students to excel academically, and encouraged our best and brightest graduates to stay in Alaska. This program is critical for keeping bright young Alaskans in the state workforce.

A Future at Risk

The scholarship and grants funded under HEIF are threatened. In the 2025 legislative session, the fund was used to help cover the state's budget deficit, with at least \$120 million spent on non-scholarship state funding.

More Alaskan students are seeking APS funding following the 2024 legislation that expanded eligibility and increased award amounts, which further strains the account. Unless the fund is recapitalized we are risking many of the important gains made through these programs.

Investing in our Future Workforce

Financial assistance increases student access and success in higher education. Recognizing this, in 2012 the Legislature established the **Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund** to endow two assistance programs for Alaskans, the merit-based Alaska Performance Scholarship and the needs-based Alaska Education Grant.

The fund was initially capitalized with \$400 million. The purpose of the HEIF is to provide for long-term, stable scholarships, grants, tuition assistance and funding for WWAMI medical education for Alaska students.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) provides Alaska high school graduates an opportunity to earn up to \$7,000 per year towards postsecondary education. Recipients can use the scholarship for up to four years at eligible universities, colleges, and career training centers in Alaska.

In 2024, a record 3,745 students were eligible for the APS, and twice as many students used it then in 2017.

The scholarship also helps retain students, with 72% citing APS as either a major or minor factor in attending an in-state Alaska school.

The Alaska Education Grant (AEG) provides up to \$4,000 per year of needs-based financial assistance to Alaskans attending qualifying postsecondary institutions in Alaska. Awards are prioritized based on financial need.

In 2024, 2,650 students received an average of \$2,150 in AEG financial assistance.

For Alaskan families, these scholarships and grant programs are often the determining factor in a student's ability to pay for college tuition or earn a trade certificate.

