## NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO AMEND REGULATIONS DEALING WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ALASKA SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM, THE ALASKA EDUCATION GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, AND THE WICHE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education proposes to amend, adopt, and repeal regulations relating to the terms and conditions of the Alaska Supplemental Education Loan Program, the Alaska Education Grant Program, the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program, and the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program.

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) proposes to amend, adopt, and repeal regulations in Title 20, Chapters 15, 16, and 18 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with terms and conditions including the following:

- (1) 20 AAC 15.700(a) will be amended to reflect a change in the name of the federal loan program and an amendment to clarify the Alaska Supplemental Education Loan is available to help pay allowable costs of attendance.
- (2) 20 AAC 15.705(c) will be amended to allow the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to set the FICO score and other eligibility criteria for applicants or endorsers under the Alaska Supplemental Education Loan Program.
- (3) 20 AAC 15.715(a) will be amended to reflect the use of the acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- (4) 20 AAC 15.785 will be amended to reflect a change in the description of eligible schools that are authorized to participate in federal student aid programs under 20 U.S.C 1070-1099d.
- (5) 20 AAC 15.910(a) will be amended to remove the term AlaskAdvantage from the consolidation loan program.
- (6) 20 AAC 15.910(2) is amended to correct the applicable subsection.
- (7) 20 AAC 15.910(e) will be amended to remove AlaskAdvantage from the title of the Alaska Education Grant Program.
- (8) 20 AAC 15.922(e) will be amended to address an institution's requirement to verify a student's eligibility prior to each disbursement.
- (9) 20 AAC 15.922(k) will be amended to eliminate the names of specific commission-approved electronic funds transfer (EFT) programs and replace those

- names with a statement that EFT methods must be approved by the ACPE.
- (10) 20 AAC 15.940(j) will be amended to allow the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to set the FICO score and other criteria for cosigners
- (11) 20 AAC 15.950(a) will be amended to reflect that disbursements will be made in equal amounts unless an institution designates alternate amounts, which do not exceed the total loan amount.
- (12) 20 AAC 15.965(e) will be repealed and readopted to include a new subsection. The new subsection will permit the Executive Director to request and receive additional documentation of undue financial hardship resulting from the same medical condition exceeding five years in length.
- (13) 20 AAC 15.990(14), setting out the definition of ASLNet, the name of the commission's previous internet financial aid packaging and delivery system will be repealed.
- (14) 20 AAC 16.015(1) will be amended to accurately display the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- (15) 20 AAC 16.030(a) will be amended to reflect the use of the acronym for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).
- (16) 20 AAC 16.040 will be amended to add a new subsection requiring institutions to maintain documentation of verification of the identity of the student receiving any grant money.
- (17) 20 AAC 16.215(d) will be amended to permit the executive director to consider applications from students submitting a completed FAFSA or a completed alternate application provided by the commission after June 30, but before the end of the school year.
- (18) 20 AAC 16.220(c) will be amended to describe "half-time enrollment" instead of "part-time enrollment."
- (19) 20 AAC 16.250 will be amended to set out allowable costs of attendance for students enrolled full-time or on-time.
- (20) 20 AAC 16.250 will be amended to add a new subsection to set out allowable costs of attendance for students enrolled less than full-time.
- (21) 20 AAC 15.990 will be amended by adding a new subsection to provide a definition of "vocational program" or "vocational certificate program."

(22) 20 AAC 18.025(c), regarding the non-award of education loans under AS 14.43.091-14.43.160 or AS 14.43.170-14.43.075 to that person who receives a Professional Student Exchange loan for the same period of attendance, is repealed.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Executive Director of the ACPE, P. O. Box 110505, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505. Additionally, the ACPE will accept comments by facsimile at (907) 465-3293 and by electronic mail at EED.ACPE-ExecDirector@Alaska.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Alaska Online Public Notice System, by accessing this notice on the system and using the comment link. The comments must be received not later than 4:30 p.m. on December 28, 2017.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to the Executive Director of the ACPE, P. O. Box 110505, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505, or EED.ACPE-ExecDirector@Alaska.gov. The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period, or by December 18, 2017. The ACPE will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and at www.acpe.alaska.gov.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Jackie Hall at (907) 465-6692 or by email at Jackie.Hall@alaska.gov not later than December 18, 2017, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Jackie Hall at (907) 465-6692 or by email at Jackie.Hall@alaska.gov.

A copy of material proposed for adoption by reference is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System or on our website at:

http://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/3/ExecutiveOffice/ACPE Draft Regulations LoanPrograms.pdf.

After the public comment period ends, the ASLC will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

**Statutory authority:** AS 14.42.030; AS 14.43.105; AS 14.43.120; AS 14.43.122; AS 14.43.160; AS 14.43.170; AS 14.43.171; AS 14.43.172; AS 14.43.300; AS 14.43.320; AS 14.43.405; AS 14.43.406; AS 14.43.415; AS 14.43.510; AS 14.43.630; AS 14.43.640; AS 14.43.710; AS 14.43.730; AS 14.43.740; AS 14.43.810; AS 14.43.820; AS 14.43.825; AS 14.44.035; AS 14.48.050.

**Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific:** AS 14.42.030; AS 14.43.105; AS 14.43.120; AS 14.43.122; AS 14.43.160; AS 14.43.170; AS 14.43.171; AS 14.43.172; AS 14.43.300; AS 14.43.320; AS 14.43.405; AS 14.43.406; AS 14.43.415; AS 14.43.510; AS

14.43.630; AS 14.43.640; AS 14.43.710; AS 14.43.730; AS 14.43.740; AS 14.43.810; AS 14.43.820; AS 14.43.825; AS 14.44.035; AS 14.48.050.

Fiscal information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: November 22, 2017

Stephanie Butler, Executive Director

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education