



2017-2018 FAST FACTS FOR EDUCATORS

What is the Dallas County Promise?

Seniors at participating Dallas County high schools that meet the Promise deadlines will receive sufficient funding to pay the **full cost of tuition for up to three years or degree completion at any college within the Dallas County Community College District**. Promise Scholars who meet income requirements and have a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher will also receive the **Rising Star Scholarship** to cover the cost of textbooks. Additionally, Dallas County Promise Scholars will be paired with and supported by a Success Coach.

Promise Benefits to High School Campuses:

- Access to FAFSA/TASFA professional development at no cost to district.
- Data progress reports on mutually agreed upon milestones.
- Continuous improvement support from The Commit! Partnership, including help with achieving FAFSA/TASFA, ApplyTX, scholarship, and college enrollment goals.

Promise Benefits to Students:

- Free tuition at any college in the Dallas County Community College District for all students, regardless of income or GPA.
- College Success Coach support will begin at the end of student's senior year and continue through college completion. Additional textbook stipend for students meeting income and 2.5 GPA (75 or better on a 100-point scale) requirements.
- Access to transfer scholarships at partner four-year universities.

To Receive the Dallas County Promise Scholarship and Support, Seniors Must:

1 PLEDGE by January 31:

- Complete your Promise Pledge at DallasCountyPromise.org
- A confirmation will be sent to your email.

2 APPLY by March 15:

- Submit the DCCCD application through applytexas.org or at dccc.edu/apply
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov and list the DCCCD colleges that you are interested in. **OR** Texas residents who are non-citizens need to complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) and submit to the DCCCD college you plan to attend.

3 ENROLL by July 31:

- Complete DCCCD class registration for the Fall semester.

Once enrolled, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete at least 18 credit hours per academic year to continue to receive tuition benefits.

Dallas County Promise Post-Secondary Partners:

- UNT Dallas
- SMU
- Dallas County Community College District Foundation
- The 7 Dallas County Community Colleges - Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland.

Why is the Dallas County Promise Necessary?

College Matters: Completing some level of education beyond high school is necessary to earn a living-wage. Did you know that 30 percent of DFW jobs are middle skill jobs requiring an associate degree or certificate and earn on average \$51,000 a year?¹

Workforce Needs: 37 percent of adults in Dallas County have a two- or four-year degree,² yet 65 percent of living wage jobs require an education beyond high school.³ Unless more students, particularly economically disadvantaged students and students of color, access and complete credentials in high-demand fields, the regional economy will experience a significant talent shortage.

Education Gaps: Less than three in 10 Dallas County high school graduates complete college within six years,⁴ averaging around 27% for the last six years.⁵

Equity: 10 percent of 8th grade students from low-income families in Dallas County earned a 2- or 4-year degree six years after HS graduation in the most recent longitudinal study from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.⁶

Inspiration for Dallas County Promise Model:

Representatives from Dallas visited Tennessee on numerous occasions to learn about their Promise model and the success they have seen in fully engaging high schools as partners to produce the best results at scale of any of the current 200 promise models:

- 13% increase in college enrollment over the effort's first two years (30% in community colleges)
- 74% FAFSA completion for the state (#1 in the nation)
- 5% increase in retention year over year

What makes the Tennessee Promise so effective?

- Message – Free college tuition for ALL
- Marketing – Partner with high schools on key college access milestones
- Mentoring – Support college application and enrollment, and reduce summer melt
- Data – Tracking progress to help high schools with real time reporting

Selection Criteria for the Cohort One High Schools:

With our Early College High School and Collegiate Academy partners, DCCCD is committed to the success of all students by providing a clear pathway to college graduation that removes tuition cost as a barrier.

Invited campuses must either be a TEA-approved 2017-18 Early College High school that is co-sponsored by a DCCCD College or be a co-sponsor with a DCCCD College of a collegiate academy that has produced graduates with a degree from a DCCCD college by Spring 2017.

Cohort One High School Requirements:

- Leadership: Assigns an administrative point of contact to serve as the Dallas County Promise “point person”
- Data Support: School districts update data sharing requirements for the Dallas County Community College Foundation to use student data to apply scholarship funding for the Dallas County Promise
- Communication: Teams from each campus commit to monthly check-ins and will convene as a large group each semester

¹ www.jporganchase.com/skillsatwork, May 2015

² United States Census Bureau, 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Estimates

³ https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.ES_Web_.pdf

⁴ National Student Clearinghouse, TEA

⁵ National Student Clearinghouse, TEA

⁶ Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

