

2018-2019 DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE FAST FACTS FOR EDUCATORS



WHAT IS THE DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE?

The Dallas County Promise is a program to reduce financial barriers and support students to succeed in college, careers and life with a commitment to securing a rewarding job in their career pathway.

The Promise is available to **all** 2019 graduates in 43 participating high schools. All 2019 graduates — *regardless of GPA or family income* — have the opportunity to earn a last-dollar scholarship that will cover any gap between what a student's state and federal financial aid cover and the cost of tuition at a Promise Partner college. Promise Scholars also have access to a **Success Coach** and exclusive transfer scholarships at Promise Transfer Partner universities.

Promise Scholars intending to enroll at a DCCCD college are also considered for the Rising Star scholarship, which requires a **3.0 GPA out of 4.0 scale** and demonstrated financial need.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE DEADLINES

To become a Dallas County Promise Scholar, 2019 graduates must:

- **Pledge by February 8, 2019:**
 - » Make your Promise Pledge at DallasCountyPromise.org. A confirmation will be emailed to you.
- **Apply by February 8, 2019:**
 - » Complete an application to a Promise Partner college through **ApplyTX** or the college's admissions application.
- **Submit by March 8, 2019:**
 - » Submit **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** or **Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)**, listing or submitting to at least one Promise Partner college.
- **Enroll July 31, 2019:**
 - » Complete Promise Partner college's **registration** for the fall semester.



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

PROMISE FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE

All 2019 graduates completing high school with their associate degree from a participating Dallas County Promise high school can have their costs of classes (tuition) covered at **UNT Dallas**. If your federal and state financial aid doesn't cover tuition at UNT Dallas, Promise dollars will.

Promise Scholars are matched with a **Success Coach** to provide support as Scholars complete their degrees and help Scholars make connections to launch their careers

Important dates if you're considering UNT Dallas:

- **February 8:** Complete Promise Pledge.
- **February 8:** Complete the UNT Dallas admissions application and be accepted.
- **March 8:** Complete FAFSA or TASFA and list UNT Dallas.
- UNT Dallas has other competitive scholarships available as well; for those, students are advised to apply in time to be accepted before **December 1**.

SMU Mustang Scholars Program

Students attending a Promise high school who have completed the Promise Pledge are eligible to apply for a competitive Mustang Scholars scholarship, which covers tuition and fees at SMU. This is a merit- and need-based scholarship. Visit SMU.edu/MustangScholars for more details.

Important dates if you're considering SMU:

- **January 15:** Complete the Dallas County Promise Pledge
- **January 15:** Complete SMU admissions application and Mustang Scholars essay
- **January 15:** Submit FAFSA/TASFA and the CSS Profile and list SMU

PARENT PROMISE

All 2019 graduates completing a Promise Pledge at select high schools who also meet income requirements can gift a college education to a parent or guardian. Promise funding covering any gap between federal and state financial aid and the cost of tuition is available to one adult in each eligible Promise Scholar household who wants to earn credentials in select fields at a Dallas County community college. Visit DCCCD.edu/ParentPromise for the list of participating high schools or email ParentPromise@DCCCD.edu for more information.



INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS AND COLLEGE ACCESS CHAMPIONS

Why is the Dallas County Promise Necessary?

- **College Degrees Pay Off:** Completing some level of education beyond high school is necessary to earn a living-wage job. Thirty percent of DFW jobs are middle-skill jobs requiring an associate degree or certificate. These jobs pay an average of \$51,000 a year.^[1]
- **Workforce Needs:** Thirty-seven 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, 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] which is an average of about 27 percent for the last six years.^[5]
- **Equity:** Ten percent of eighth grade students from low-income families in Dallas County earned a two- or four-year degree six years after high school graduation, according to the most recent longitudinal study from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.^[6]

Selection Criteria for the Dallas County Promise High Schools:

Promise high schools are selected based on their early college status or through an application process in partnership with Dallas County school districts, Dallas County Community College District, the Dallas County Community College District Foundation and Jobs for the Future.

Each participating campus is either a TEA-approved Early College High School co-sponsored by a DCCCD College; a co-sponsor of a Collegiate Academy; or has submitted college and career readiness plans and commitments through a process developed in partnership with area school districts, the Dallas County Community College District and Jobs for the Future, to help ensure all students are on a college- and career-ready pathway to success.

Promise Benefits to High School Campus:

- Access to FAFSA/TASFA professional development at no cost to district
- Individualized data-progress reports on mutually agreed upon milestones
- Continuous improvement support from the Commit Partnership, including help in achieving FAFSA/TASFA, ApplyTX, scholarship and college-enrollment goals

Dallas County Promise Partners:

The Dallas County Promise is available to seniors graduating from participating high schools in ten school districts to attend a Dallas County Community College District college, UNT Dallas or SMU, among others. For a full list of participating high schools, higher education institutions, nonprofits and industry partners please visit DallasCountyPromise.org

Resources

- **Communication Tool Kit:** For additional resources to help spread the word about Promise, visit DallasCountyPromise.org, where you can download the communication tool kit and access videos and sample social media posts



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PROMISE STAFF AT INFO@DALLASCOUNTYPROMISE.ORG. FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA EFFORTS @DALCOPROMISE.

[1] www.jpmorganchase.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