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 2021 graduates in 57 participating high schools. All 2021 graduates—regardless of GPA or family income—can 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 or university. Promise Scholars also have access to a Success Coach and exclusive transfer scholarships at select Promise partner colleges and universities. Promise Scholars intending to enroll at Dallas College to earn an associate degree are also considered for the Rising Star scholarship, which requires a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and demonstrated financial need, to cover books and supplies.

**WHAT IS THE DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE?**

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**DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW**

*To become a Dallas County Promise Scholar, 2021 graduates must:*

**PLEDGE & APPLY TO COLLEGE by FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

- Deadline to submit your “Promise Pledge” at DallasCountyPromise.org [You’ll receive a confirmation email with your Pledge ID. *Completing a Promise Pledge does NOT obligate a student to participate in this program.*]
- Submit an admission application to a Promise partner college or university through ApplyTexas.org or the partner’s admission website.

**SUBMIT YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION by MARCH 5, 2021**

- Deadline to submit the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) and list a Promise partner college or university.

**REGISTER FOR FALL COURSES by JULY 30, 2021**

- Complete course registration by this date to begin classes at a Promise partner college or university for the Fall 2021 semester.

**SMU Applicants:** If you’re considering Southern Methodist University, please note that SMU has limited scholarships available and interested students should submit all required documents by January 15, 2021 for full consideration.

**PROMISE FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

2021 graduates earning their high school diploma at a participating Dallas County Promise high school have the opportunity to attend partner colleges and universities without an associate degree requirement, with tuition (the costs of classes) covered in full. At these institutions, Promise covers any gap between federal and state financial aid and tuition costs.

**PROMISE FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

2021 graduates earning their associate degree while attending a participating Dallas County Promise high school can have their college tuition covered at select partner colleges and universities. Most partner institutions require an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Arts in Teaching. The University of North Texas at Dallas also offers Promise funding for students graduating high school with an Associate of Applied Arts or Associate of Applied Science. At these institutions, Promise covers any gap between federal and state financial aid and tuition costs.

*Please note:* Students receiving an Associate of Applied Arts (AAA) or Applied Science (AAS) degree may still be eligible, but options with Promise are limited. Please email info@dallascountypromise.org if you have a student receiving an AAA or AAS degree.

For full benefits at the Promise partner college/university of each student’s choice, specific deadlines and enrollment requirements must be met. Visit www.dallascountypromise.org/students/2021 for deadlines, key dates, and requirements.
PARENT PROMISE
All 2021 graduates completing the Promise Pledge at participating Parent Promise high schools have the opportunity to gift a college education to their parent or guardian. Parent Promise funding will cover the gap between federal and state financial aid and the cost of tuition, if they meet the household income requirements, and the offer is available to one adult in the Promise Scholar’s household. Parent Promise is open to all eligible, qualified parents interested in earning credentials in select fields at a campus within the Dallas College.

Visit DCCCD.edu/ParentPromise for the list of participating high schools and email ParentPromise@DCCCD.edu for more information.

INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS & 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 most living-wage jobs. 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]

PROMISE BENEFITS TO YOUR 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

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE HIGH SCHOOLS
Promise high schools are selected based on their early college status or through an application process managed in partnership with Dallas County school districts, Dallas College, and the Dallas College Foundation. Each participating campus meets one of the following criteria: (a) TEA-approved Early College High School co-sponsored by Dallas College; (b) co-sponsor of a Collegiate Academy; or (c) has submitted college and career readiness plans and commitments through a process developed in partnership with area school districts and Dallas College to help ensure all students are on a college- and career-ready pathway to success.

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE PARTNERS
The Dallas County Promise is available to seniors graduating from participating high schools in eleven school districts and welcomes Promise Scholars at the following partner institutions: all Dallas College campuses, UNT Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M-Commerce, Texas A&M-Texarkana, Midwestern State University, and Texas Woman’s University, among others. For a full list of partners, including school districts, nonprofits, investors, and workforce, please visit DallasCountyPromise.org/Partners.

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.

[4] National Student Clearinghouse, TEA
[5] National Student Clearinghouse, TEA