WHAT IS THE DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE?
The Dallas County Promise is a program to reduce financial barriers and support students in succeeding in college, careers and life with a commitment to securing a rewarding job designed in their career pathway. The Promise is available to all 2020 graduates in 57 participating high schools. All 2020 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 a DCCCD college [to earn an associate degree] are also considered for the Rising Star scholarship, which requires a 3.0 GPA out of 4.0 scale and a demonstrated financial need [to cover books and supplies].

DALLAS COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW
To become a Dallas County Promise Scholar, 2020 graduates must:

PLEDGE & APPLY TO COLLEGE by FEBRUARY 7, 2020

- Deadline to complete 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 6, 2020

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

PLEDGE & APPLY TO COLLEGE by FEBRUARY 7, 2020

- Complete registration by this date to begin classes at a Promise partner college or university for the Fall 2020 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, 2020 for full consideration. At the end of their senior year, Promise Scholars will be matched with a Success Coach that provides support to Scholars during their degree or certification program and helps scholars make connections to successfully launch their career.

PROMISE FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
2020 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
2020 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 Teaching. The gap between federal and state financial aid and tuition costs will be covered in full, and students earn the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree with Promise benefits.

Please note: Students receiving an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree may still be eligible, but options are limited. Please email info@dallascountypromise.org if you have a student receiving an AAS degree that will complete the Promise Pledge. 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/2020 for deadlines, key dates, and requirements.
**PARENT PROMISE**

All 2020 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 County Community College District.

Visit [DCCCD.edu/ParentPromise](http://DCCCD.edu/ParentPromise) for the list of participating high schools and email ParentPromise@DCCCD.edu for more information.

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**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]

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**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

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**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, the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD), the Dallas County Community College District Foundation and Jobs for the Future. Each participating campus meets one of the following criteria: (a) TEA-approved Early College High School co-sponsored by a DCCCD College; (b) co-sponsor of a Collegiate Academy; or (b) 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.

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**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 partners institutions: all Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) campuses, UNT Dallas, SMU, TAMUC, MSU, Prairie View A&M, Paul Quinn, and Austin College, among others. For a full list of partners, including school districts, nonprofits, investors, and workforce, please visit [DallasCountyPromise.org/Partners](http://DallasCountyPromise.org/Partners).

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**RESOURCES**

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

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