

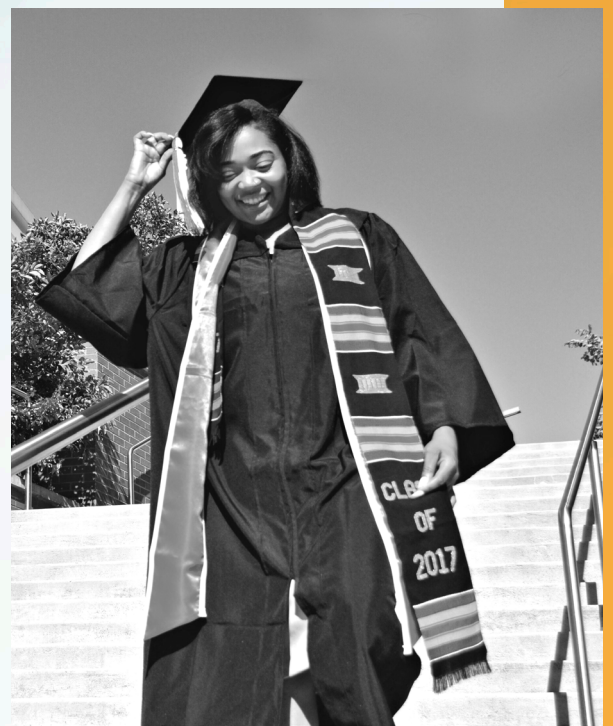


The Education Trust  
EdTrust.org

# A Promise Worth Keeping:

## AN UPDATED EQUITY-DRIVEN FRAMEWORK FOR FREE COLLEGE PROGRAMS

### APPENDIX



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## METHODOLOGY USED TO IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE STATEWIDE FREE COLLEGE PROGRAMS

The structure of free college programs varies widely, ranging from regional community college initiatives available only to students within a particular district to statewide programs that provide four years of tuition at both two- and four-year colleges. To be included in this report, promise programs had to meet the following criteria:

- cover, at a minimum, the cost of tuition at either a two- or four-year institution;
- be available to students statewide, and not just those from certain districts, those enrolled at a specific university or in a particular program or discipline;
- not require a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher or an ACT score above 20;
- be entirely state funded;
- be enacted, funded, and implemented for at least one cohort of students by the completion of our analysis in July 2020.

We searched for existing and proposed statewide free college programs using the College Promise Campaign's [map](#) and [2019-2020 Annual Report](#); the [Education Commission of the States' State Education Policy Tracking](#), [Policy Watch List](#), [Free College and Adult Student Populations](#), and [State-Level Free Community College](#); [Penn AHEAD's College Promise Programs](#); and the National Conference of State Legislatures' [Education Bill Tracking Database](#).

After identifying the programs that met our criteria, Ed Trust researchers analyzed each one — using the websites of agencies overseeing the programs, publicly available data on scholarship recipients, and the text of the proposed bills — to determine how well they fit our equity-driven framework. We then contacted the state agency overseeing the program or the authors of the legislation to verify our analysis. Please note that throughout this Appendix an asterisk next to a check mark means there are unique conditions for certain student populations. An asterisk next to an X means the program only partially satisfies the criteria in question.

The following active or authorized programs were omitted from this report because they failed to meet our criteria:

Program	Reasoning
<a href="#">Arkansas Future Grant</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Iowa Future Ready Last-Dollar Scholarship</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Indiana Workforce Ready Grant</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Missouri Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Michigan Futures for Frontliners</a>	Limited to residents who worked in an essential industry during the state COVID-19 shutdown.
<a href="#">Michigan Reconnect</a>	Signed into law in 2020, funded, but not yet implemented.
<a href="#">Montana Promise Grant Program</a>	Authorized in 2017, but not yet funded or implemented.
<a href="#">New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship</a>	<a href="#">Authorized in 2019, funded in 2020</a> , but not implemented for at least one cohort of students by July 2020.
<a href="#">Build South Dakota Promise Program</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">Virginia G3 Program</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">West Virginia Invests Grant</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.
<a href="#">West Virginia Promise</a>	Excluded based on GPA or ACT/SCORE requirement
<a href="#">Wyoming Works Grant</a>	Limited only to certain disciplines or areas of study.











# ACTIVE PROGRAMS

## CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PROMISE

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Colleges can — [but are not required to](#) — waive fees for all first-time, full-time students. Program participation is voluntary. Colleges that receive funding must participate in the state’s guided pathways program and engage in activities that advance college access, preparedness, and success. Among the bill’s key goals is reducing achievement gaps for underrepresented groups, such as low-income students, current or former foster youth, formerly incarcerated students, and undocumented students. The program does not replace the need-based California College Promise Grant, which is also evaluated in this report.

**Income Cap:** [Varies depending](#) on the eligibility criteria set by the school.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Colleges can, but are <a href="#">not required</a> to, waive enrollment fees first, leaving other aid for living costs. Some colleges use funding for other purposes, such as improving student support services or providing grants to help students cover the costs of child care, transportation, books or other expenses.
Fees for All Recipients		See above.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a <a href="#">maximum of two years</a> .
Tuition for a Bachelor’s Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is available only at public two-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Program is reserved for first-time students and excludes returning students with some college experience. Note: first-time, full-time requirement applies only if the funds are used for a fee waiver.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		GPA requirements vary depending on the individual college/district. However, colleges can impose GPA requirements that are more restrictive and create barriers for students.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must enroll full time (minimum of 12 units). Note: This restriction applies only to schools awarding fee waivers. Schools may opt to make funds available to students as grants that do not require full-time enrollment.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not have to be repaid. However, this is not stipulated in the text of the bill and could be subject to school’s policies.
Access to Undocumented Students		<a href="#">AB 130</a> and <a href="#">AB 131</a> allow undocumented students to access state financial aid if they meet residency and high school graduation requirements.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		There is no language explicitly excluding justice-impacted students, but residency requirements could make it difficult for currently incarcerated students to participate.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 6

## CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PROMISE GRANT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BOG FEE WAIVER)

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Formerly known as the Board of Governors fee waiver, the California College Promise Grant (CCPG) is a need-based fee waiver that waives per-unit enrollment fees (tuition). The waiver is available to adult and returning students, students who enroll part time, undocumented students, previously and currently incarcerated students, and has no limit on how long students qualify, as long as they meet the income and eligibility requirements.

**Income Cap:** Yes; students are eligible if they meet one of the following criteria: 1) receive some form of public assistance, 2) fall below yearly household [income limits](#), or 3) demonstrate at least \$1,104 worth of financial need.











CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Program waives per-unit enrollment fees (tuition), leaving non-tuition restricted grants for use toward living costs.
Fees for All Recipients		Students are responsible for any and all fees remaining after tuition is waived. Note: Some student fees beyond tuition are optional.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program has no limitations on the number of units it will cover.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is only available at public two-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Recipients must be planning to attend or currently attending a community college; no limits on age or units.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and complete more than 50% of their coursework.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Program does not mandate that students enroll full or part time.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not have to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		<a href="#">AB 130</a> and <a href="#">AB 131</a> allow undocumented students to access state financial aid if they meet residency and high school graduation requirements.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Program is open to all low-income students in the community college sector, <a href="#">including previously AND currently incarcerated students</a> . Note that <a href="#">residency requirements</a> could make it difficult for currently incarcerated students to participate.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 8

**CONNECTICUT PACT****Status:** Active

**Summary:** A last-dollar grant for first-time, full-time students attending community college. Students must be Connecticut residents and Connecticut high school graduates or GED earners. Recipients may receive the grant for a maximum of three years.

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar grant that only cover tuition and fees
Fees for All Recipients		Grant covers fees for all recipients
At Least 4 Years of College		Grant covers no more than three years of college.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Grant does not cover four-year colleges.
Adult and Returning Students	 *	Adult students are eligible only if they are first-time students. Returning and current students are not eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Once enrolled, students must remain in good academic standing.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Part-time students are ineligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Students must complete the FAFSA and accept all grant awards.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Currently and formerly incarcerated students are excluded. To be eligible for PACT, a student must be eligible to participate in Title IV aid programs.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 3

## DELAWARE STUDENT EXCELLENCE EQUALS DEGREE (SEED)

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Eligible students may receive a scholarship for up to six consecutive semesters of tuition at a Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC) campus or the [University of Delaware's](#) Associate in Arts program, provided they enroll directly after graduating high school. Students who complete their associate degree in four semesters can apply the last [two semesters of funding toward a bachelor's degree](#) at the University of Delaware. In addition to meeting the requirements listed below, SEED recipients must have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher, satisfy residency requirements, and maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher to remain eligible for the scholarship. This award is available to [undocumented students](#), but not to students with a [criminal record](#).

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living costs and is reduced based on receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		Program does not cover fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a maximum of six continuous semesters (not including summer semesters) or the equivalent of three years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges	 *	Program does not include four-year institutions, except for the Associates in Arts Program at the University of Delaware. Note: students who complete their associate degree in four semesters may use remaining eligibility toward a bachelor's degree at the University of Delaware.
Adult and Returning Students		Students must enroll no later than the fall semester after graduating high school to be eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must earn and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Only full-time students are eligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Undocumented students must meet the standard eligibility requirements, in addition to the following: attended a high school in DE for two or more years; graduated from DE high school, applied for all campus-based aid, and submitted notarized tuition affidavit certifying that said student is undocumented but has applied for U.S. residency.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Student cannot have a criminal record or be under probation (excludes misdemeanor traffic violations).

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 2













## HAWAII PROMISE

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Eligible students enrolled in the University of Hawaii Community College system may receive awards covering the cost of tuition, educational fees, books, supplies, and transportation. In order to be eligible, students must meet the requirements listed below *and* qualify for resident tuition and submit a FAFSA. Previously incarcerated, currently incarcerated, and DACA students are eligible.

**Income Cap:** No











CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students	 *	This is a last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living expenses, but recipients may receive support for books, supplies, fees, and transportation.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a maximum of eight semesters.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is only available at University of Hawaii community colleges.
Adult and Returning Students		Eligibility is not limited to recent high school graduates.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll in a classified degree or certification program with six or more units per semester.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not have to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students	 *	Students are required to submit a FAFSA, which would make DACA students eligible, but not all undocumented students. NOTE: Undocumented students, including those with DACA status, cannot access any type of federal aid. But DACA students can complete a FAFSA and get an EFC.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Per data check: "There is no impact of prior incarceration on access to the program." a <a href="#">VERA Institute of Justice report</a> also states that HI has "no statute, regulation, or policy that prevents incarcerated students from being eligible to receive financial aid."

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 7

INDIANA 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students who meet the [income requirements](#) must apply to the program in seventh or eighth grade. They are expected to complete the [12 Scholar success requirements](#) in high school and have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher as part of the eligibility requirements. The program covers up to four years of tuition and fees at [eligible](#) public and private two- and four-year colleges. The amount of the scholarship will not be reduced by receipt of non-tuition-specific aid. Students must be Indiana residents to apply and receive this award.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), must meet USDA free and reduced lunch income guidelines based on family size (e.g., \$56,758 for a family of 5) to be eligible and must have an annual household income that is at or [below 370%](#) of the federal poverty level to maintain eligibility in college.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
<b>Living Costs for Low-Income Students</b>		Award cannot go toward living costs, but will <i>not</i> be reduced by receipt of non-tuition restricted grants. Recipients of non-tuition restricted grants may use them for living expenses.
<b>Fees for All Recipients</b>		Program covers regularly assessed fees, such as technology, student activity, and health service fees.
<b>At Least 4 Years of College</b>		Program covers up to four years of tuition or a bachelor's degree (whichever comes first).
<b>Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges</b>		Program is available at both two- and four-year public institutions.
<b>Adult and Returning Students</b>		Students must enroll in the program in seventh or eighth grade and have up to one year after high school graduation to use their scholarship. If they enroll and put their studies on pause or leave before completing a degree, they may return and use their scholarship within eight years of first activating it.
<b>Students with a 2.0 GPA</b>		Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the college.
<b>Students Enrolling Part Time</b>		Students must earn at least 30 units each academic year.
<b>Does It Stay a Grant?</b>		Aid never has to be repaid.
<b>Access to Undocumented Students</b>		Students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens to qualify for the scholarship. FAFSA is also required.
<b>Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students</b>		Students must take the "Scholar Pledge," which states that they may "not use illegal drugs or alcohol or commit a crime or delinquent act." This likely makes incarcerated students ineligible. (Ind. Code §§ 21-12-6-5(a)(4) and 21-12-6-6(a)(5))











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 6

## LOUISIANA TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS (TOPS) OPPORTUNITY AWARD

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Recent high school graduates who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, complete certain units in the TOP Core curriculum, and have an ACT of 20 or higher receive awards, though the award amount is contingent on annual appropriations. While these awards [vary by institution](#), they have historically been sufficient to cover tuition at public two- and four-year colleges. Recipients must also meet Louisiana residency requirements, submit a FAFSA, and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Awardees attending private colleges receive awards equal to the weighted average award amount for public colleges and universities. Students may also be eligible for TOPS [Performance Awards](#) or [Honors Awards](#), which provide additional funding for students earning higher high school GPAs and ACT scores. There is also a TOPS [Tech Award](#) that provides support for students in technical and occupational training programs and approved academic programs. The analysis below pertains only to the TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students).

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		The scholarship is paid to the institution, which treats it like a cash award; however, if a student's tuition is covered by other aid, the grant can be applied toward cost of living.
Fees for All Recipients		Program only covers tuition (except in the case above).
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers up to eight semesters (or 12 quarters) maximum.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program includes eligible two- and four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Students must enroll by the first semester following the first anniversary of their high school graduation.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.3 at their first year and 2.5 all other academic years.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll full time to be eligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Scholarship is only available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents. A FAFSA is also required.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		To be eligible, students must not have a final criminal conviction (excludes misdemeanor traffic violations and juvenile convictions).











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 4

## MARYLAND GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students who meet the income requirements may apply their senior year of high school. The award may equal 100% of the student's financial need (including living costs) after subtracting the student's other grant aid and expected family contribution at a two- or four-year public college, up to a maximum of \$19,400. A related program, the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program, provides additional funds for grant recipients enrolling at [participating private institutions](#). In addition to meeting the requirements below, applicants must be eligible for in-state tuition, file a FAFSA or Maryland Financial Aid Application, and have a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), applicants must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty level (e.g. \$38,246 for a family of five) to be eligible and at or below 150% of the federal poverty level (\$44,130 for a family of five) to renew.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Program award may equal 100% of the student's financial need, including living costs up to the maximum award of \$19,400.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers fees after other aid has been applied.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a maximum of four years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program includes public and eligible private two- and four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		GED recipients must be under the age of 26 when they receive their first award. High school students must be under the age of 22 at the time of graduation to be eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to renew, but students enrolling from high school must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Only full-time students are eligible and they must complete at least 24 credits by the end of their second academic year of receiving the award and thereafter.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Program will accept the Maryland State Financial Aid Application from undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition. <a href="#">NOTE:</a> Under SB167, undocumented students must first attend a community college prior to qualifying for in-state tuition at a four-year institution.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		There is no language prohibiting previously and currently incarcerated students who meet the requirements. However, the age, attendance, residency and financial-paperwork requirements could be big deterrents to justice-impacted students.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 9

## MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE GRANT

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students who meet the [income requirements](#) and apply within two years of graduating from high school or a GED program are eligible for a last-dollar scholarship that pays tuition and mandatory fees. Recipients must enroll in credit-bearing coursework leading to a vocational certificate, certificate, associate degree, or registered apprenticeship. In addition to meeting the requirements below, students must be eligible for in-state tuition, attend a community college located in the county or region in which they live (unless it does not offer the desired program or degree), have had an unweighted GPA of 2.3 or higher in the first semester of their high school senior year [or by the end](#) of their high school senior year, remain eligible for in-state tuition, and complete the FAFSA or Maryland State Financial Aid Application.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), the annual adjusted gross income cannot be more than \$100,000 if the applicant is single or resided in a single-parent household OR \$150,000 if the applicant is married or resided in a two-parent household for the 2018 tax year.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living expenses and is reduced based on receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers mandatory expenses.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program is available for a maximum of two years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is only available at public two-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Students who meet <a href="#">all other requirements</a> are eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll in at least 12 units per semester.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid <a href="#">never</a> has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Program will accept the Maryland State Financial Aid Application from undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition. <b>NOTE:</b> Under SB167, undocumented students must first attend a community college prior to qualifying for in-state tuition at a four-year institution.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		There is no language prohibiting previously and currently incarcerated students as long as they meet the requirements. However, age, attendance, residency and financial-paperwork requirements could be big deterrents for justice-impacted students.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 5

## MISSISSIPPI HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PLAN (HELP) GRANT

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students who meet the income requirements, have an ACT of at least 20, achieve a high school cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better, and complete the HELP curriculum in high school are eligible for the grant. The program covers up to four years of tuition and fees at [eligible](#) public and private two- and four-year colleges. The scholarship is not reduced if students receive non-tuition-specific aid. In addition to the requirements below, students must be residents of Mississippi for one year prior to application and must submit a FAFSA. Undocumented students and justice-impacted students are not eligible.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#). Students must be partially Pell-eligible (determined by FAFSA) AND have a total household income at or below \$39,500. There are allowable income increases by \$5,000 for each additional dependent under the age of 21 (besides the applicant) in the family.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Scholarship may be applied toward any related expense, including living costs, up to the cost of attendance.
Fees for All Recipients		The scholarship covers tuition and required fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers up to four years or bachelor's degree completion, whichever comes first.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is available at <a href="#">approved two- and four-year institutions</a> .
Adult and Returning Students		Students must apply within two years of high school graduation.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must enroll full time (15 units) to be eligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not have to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Recipients must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens; in addition, students must fill out the FAFSA.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Applicants cannot have a criminal record (excluding misdemeanor traffic violations).











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 5

## MISSOURI A+ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students graduating from [A+ designated high schools](#) (which include almost all public high schools in the state and some non-public schools) with a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher who fulfill tutoring or mentoring requirements and meet math score and attendance requirements may qualify for a scholarship reimbursing the unpaid balance of tuition after all non-loan federal financial assistance has been applied. (Initial postsecondary students and renewal students have [different eligibility requirements](#).) Awards can be used at [participating public community colleges and vocational/technical schools](#) and certain private two-year vocational/technical schools, but are capped at the published standard credit hour rate charged by the State Technical College of Missouri. *Note: If enacted, a proposed bill, [HB 1941](#), would change the A+ Scholarship to “first dollar,” while [HB 2107](#) would lower residency requirements for high school students from two years to one year.*

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students	 *	Awards cannot be used to cover living costs and are reduced by the receipt of federal financial aid. However, awards are not reduced by the receipt of non-federal grant aid.
Fees for All Recipients		The grant covers general fees but not specific program fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Recipients are covered until they earn an associate degree or complete 105% of their required program hours, whichever comes first.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is only available at <a href="#">participating public and private two-year vocational/technical institutions</a> .
Adult and Returning Students		A student must graduate from a Missouri A+ designated high school and their eligibility will expire 48 months from the graduation date on their high school transcript.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Recipients must achieve a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA by the end of their spring term and maintain it.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll full time and complete at least 12 units in each fall and spring term in which students receive the award.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents; students must also complete a FAFSA.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Students must maintain a “good record of citizenship and avoid unlawful use of drugs/alcohol.” a <a href="#">VERA Institute of Justice report</a> also states that students must be eligible for federal Title IV financial aid to be considered for the state scholarship. Incarcerated students are eligible for some Title IV programs, but not others.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 2

## NEVADA PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** The Nevada Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar award for tuition, registration fees, and other mandatory fees. In addition to meeting the requirements below, applicants must do the following prior to enrollment to receive the award: attend training meetings at their future college, meet with a mentor, and complete 20 hours of community service.

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		The program does not cover living expenses. The grant is last dollar and covers only tuition and fees. Awards are reduced by the receipt of gift aid, which is defined as a federal Pell Grant, a federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, a Silver State Opportunity Grant, or a Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship.
Fees for All Recipients		The program covers the registration and mandatory fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		The program covers a maximum of three years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		The program does not include four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Recipients must be younger than 20 years old when they first receive the scholarship.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		As authorized, the program requires recipients to earn at least a 2.5 GPA or make adequate progress, as determined by the participating community college, to remain eligible.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Students will be eligible for award as long as they submit documents by the deadline, meet all other program requirements, and funding is available. DACA students are required to submit the FAFSA. Students not eligible to complete a 2020-2021 FAFSA must complete and submit a Non-FAFSA Filer Declaration, which is released annually by their financial aid office, and no later than March 1.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Currently and formerly incarcerated students are eligible. However, age, attendance, residency requirements and not being in default of federal student loans could be big deterrents for justice-impacted students.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 5













## NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** A grant covering tuition and fees for students who attend a New Jersey community college and meet the income requirements.

**Income Cap:** Yes, an adjusted gross income of \$0 - \$65,000.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Award pays for tuition and approved educational fees not already covered by other available grant funds applied to the student's account.
Fees for All Recipients		The program covers fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		The grant does not cover four years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		The program does not include four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		There are no limits based on year of high school graduation or prior college attendance.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Recipients must make satisfactory academic progress.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must be enrolled in at least six credit hours.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never needs to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Open to "New Jersey Dreamers," but note that the state's definition differs from that of the federal government. There is a special application for New Jersey Dreamers.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Currently and formerly incarcerated students are eligible for the grant.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 7

## NEW YORK EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** New York residents meeting income requirements may qualify to attend CUNY and SUNY institutions tuition-free. Award covers the remaining cost of tuition after New York State Tuition Assistance Program grants, Pell Grants, and other aid are taken into account.

**Income Cap:** Yes, a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		A last-dollar scholarship that pays tuition. Award cannot be used to cover living expenses.
Fees for All Recipients		The program does not cover fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		The program covers a maximum of two years for associate degrees, four years for bachelor's degrees, or five years for bachelor's degrees that normally require five years to complete.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		The program includes four-year colleges.
Adult and Returning Students		Eligibility is not limited by age or year of high school graduation. However, students who are currently or were previously enrolled in college, but are not on track to graduate (i.e., failed to earn 30 credits each year successively) are ineligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		The program does not have GPA requirements beyond satisfactory academic progress for renewal.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively).
Does It Stay a Grant?		Recipients are required live and work in New York following graduation for the length of time they participated in the scholarship program.
Access to Undocumented Students		Recipients must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizen <a href="#">NYS DREAM Act Excelsior Applicants</a> .
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Incarcerated students are not eligible for state financial aid, per N.Y. Educ. Law § 661(6)(d) (2018).











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 4

## OKLAHOMA PROMISE

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students meeting income requirements can apply in eighth through tenth grades for awards covering a maximum of five years of tuition at two- or four-year public colleges, or a portion of tuition at private colleges. In addition to meeting the requirements listed below, applicants must earn a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), federal adjusted gross income must not exceed \$55,000 per year (increasing to \$60,000 in 2021-22) at the time of application and \$100,000 each year in college for renewal.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Awards can be used to cover living costs if tuition and fees have been paid to the college through other sources of funding.
Fees for All Recipients		The program does not cover fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		The program covers a maximum of five years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		The program covers tuition at an Oklahoma public two-year college or four-year university.
Adult and Returning Students		Students must enroll in college courses within three years of graduating from high school.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		The program does not have GPA requirements beyond satisfactory academic progress for renewal.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients may enroll part time, but the five-year eligibility period will not be extended.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		The student must be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States at the time they enroll in college in order to receive the scholarship.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education has promulgated regulations barring students incarcerated in state, federal, or private correctional facilities from receiving benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access (Oklahoma's Promise) program. Okla. Admin. Code § 610:25-23-5 (2018)











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 6

## OREGON PROMISE

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Recent high school graduates and GED recipients are eligible to receive a grant covering most tuition costs at community colleges. In addition to meeting the requirements listed below, applicants must have a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible. Award is equal to the lesser of the student's community college tuition and the average tuition charged by all 17 Oregon community colleges ([\\$4,005 in 2020-21](#)), minus federal Pell Grant and Oregon Opportunity Grant awards received by the student and a mandatory \$50 per-term co-pay that all recipients are responsible for covering out of pocket. Recipients attending institutions with higher-than-average tuition must also cover additional tuition costs, while those attending institutions with lower-than-average costs will have awards calculated based on their individual institution's tuition rate. Full-time recipients receive a minimum award of \$1,000 per year minus the \$50 per-term co-pay. Part-time recipients receive a minimum award of \$500 per year minus the \$50 per-term co-pay.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), there is an EFC of 22,000 for students who start college between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students	 *	Awards are reduced by the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants. However, recipients receive a minimum award of \$1,000 for full-time students or \$500 for part-time students (minus the automatic \$50 per-term co-pay), which can be used for living costs. This is not considered sufficient to meet this criterion.
Fees for All Recipients		The grant does not cover fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		The program covers a maximum of 90 credits.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		The program does not include four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Students must enroll in college within six months of high school graduation or GED completion to be eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		The program does not have GPA requirements beyond satisfactory academic progress for renewal.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients must be enrolled in at least six credit-hours.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Yes. Students must meet all eligibility requirements for the grant, including living in Oregon for at least 12 months prior to attending college. Undocumented and DACA students must complete the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) instead of the FAFSA, as well as the Oregon Promise application.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students	 *	Currently incarcerated students are eligible. Formerly incarcerated students may be eligible to attend a community college and use Oregon Promise within six months of their release date (rather than their graduation date). Note that residency requirements could make it difficult for currently incarcerated students to participate.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 5

## RHODE ISLAND PROMISE

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** As of fall 2017, students enrolling at a public college immediately after high school do not pay tuition or mandatory fees for two years at community colleges. Awards are made only after all other grant aid has been applied. No application (aside from the FAFSA) is required. *Note: Pell Grant recipients enrolled at least half time may also be eligible for a Rhode Island Supplemental Grant.*

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living costs and is reduced based on the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		The scholarship covers tuition and mandatory fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers up to a maximum of two years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program covers certificates and associate programs at eligible two-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students		Students must enroll the fall after they graduate high school and be under 19 years of age.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 by the end of their first year and 30 credits.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll full time (minimum of 12 units).
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not need to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Undocumented students who meet <a href="#">Rhode Island residency</a> guidelines are eligible. The recipients must still attempt to submit a FAFSA and share their rejected application with the college.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		There is no language prohibiting previously and currently incarcerated students from participating, as long as they meet eligibility requirements. Note that <a href="#">residency requirements</a> could make it difficult for currently incarcerated students to participate.











**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 4

## SOUTH CAROLINA WINS SCHOLARSHIP

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** In order to use this award toward *any* associate program at the state's 16 technical colleges, students must already be receiving a [Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Scholarship \(LTAPS\)](#) and meet the [USDA income eligibility guidelines](#) for free and reduced lunch. Students who do not meet the income requirement may only use this award for critical workforce area programs. To be eligible for LTAPS, students must submit a FASFA, be enrolled in at least six units per semester, meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements, [not receive](#) the HOPE, LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships, be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, be residents of South Carolina, and not be in default on a federal Perkins or Stafford Loan.

**Income Cap:** Yes; students must receive [LTAPS](#) and meet the [USDA income requirements](#) for free and reduced lunch to qualify and utilize scholarship for any associate degree. Students who do not meet this income requirement may only use the scholarship toward a certificate, diploma, or degree in a critical workforce area.











CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living costs and is reduced by the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants. Spring 2020 recipients will receive \$100 per credit hour after applying all other scholarships or grants.
Fees for All Recipients		The scholarship may cover tuition and mandatory fees. Students enrolled in critical workforce areas get a book allowance of up to \$300 per school year.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers up to three years of instruction for an associate degree, or two years for a certificate program.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program only covers public two-year technical colleges in the state.
Adult and Returning Students		There is no language prohibiting adult or returning students, and students are eligible as long as they meet all the other eligibility requirements.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to remain eligible after attempting 24 credit hours.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students are required to take at least six units per semester.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid does not have to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents to qualify; they must also submit a FAFSA.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		There is no language excluding previously and currently incarcerated students from being eligible, as long as they meet the other requirements. The LTAPS also <a href="#">does not explicitly exclude</a> currently and previously incarcerated students.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 6

**TENNESSEE PROMISE****Status:** Active

**Summary:** Award covers the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for recent high school graduates after all other gift aid has been applied. In addition to meeting the requirements listed below, Tennessee Promise recipients must attend mandatory meetings, participate in a mentoring program, and complete eight hours of community service per term enrolled to maintain eligibility.

**Income Cap:** No











CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Awards cannot be used to cover living costs and are reduced based on the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers mandatory fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a maximum of five semesters.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Recipients may enroll at four-year institutions, but the awards are only applicable for associate degree and certificate programs and do not cover the full cost of tuition. Instead, the award amounts reflect the average amount of tuition and fees at a community college minus other all other grant aid received by the student, regardless of the cost of tuition or student's remaining need.
Adult and Returning Students		Only recent high school graduates are eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Does not have GPA requirements beyond satisfactory academic progress for renewal.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Students must enroll full-time to be eligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Undocumented students are not eligible.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students	 *	Tennessee bans incarcerated students from state financial aid (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-4-904(6) (2017)). Also, students with <a href="#">certain convictions may be barred</a> from receiving both state and federal aid after returning to their communities.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 3

**TENNESSEE RECONNECT****Status:** Active

**Summary:** This award targets adult students (i.e. classified as independent on FAFSA) and covers the cost of tuition and mandatory fees after all other gift aid has been applied. In addition to meeting the requirements below, recipients must not be in default on a student loan, not owe an outstanding balance to an institution, and participate in the Reconnect Success Plan every year they are enrolled to maintain eligibility.

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Awards cannot be used to cover living costs and are reduced based on the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers mandatory fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Recipients become ineligible after earning an associate degree or attempting the total number of hours necessary for an eligible program of study, or five years following their initial enrollment as a Reconnect grant recipient.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Recipients may enroll at four-year institutions, but the awards are only applicable for associate degree and certificate programs and do not cover the full cost of tuition. Instead, the award amounts reflect the average amount of tuition and fees at a community college minus other all other grant aid received by the student, regardless of the cost of tuition or student's remaining need.
Adult and Returning Students		Eligibility is not limited by year of high school graduation or prior college attendance.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Program does not have GPA requirements beyond satisfactory academic progress for renewal.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Recipients can enroll part time. However, only students deemed independent on the FAFSA are eligible for Tennessee Reconnect awards. Dependent part-time students are ineligible from the program.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		Undocumented students are not eligible.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		Tennessee bans incarcerated students from state financial aid (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-4-904(6) (2017)). Also, students <a href="#">with certain convictions may be barred</a> from receiving both state and federal aid after returning to their communities.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 5













## ACCESS UTAH PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Award is available for students who have a high school diploma or equivalent and have not earned an associate degree. The last-dollar scholarship covers up to four semesters (or 60 units) of tuition and fees for students who are pursuing an associate degree at eligible two- and four-year institutions. The program leaves it up to the institution to decide whether to require full-time or part-time enrollment. Students must also be Utah residents to be eligible.

**Income Cap:** No

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students		Last-dollar scholarship that does not cover living costs and is reduced based on the receipt of non-tuition restricted grants.
Fees for All Recipients		Program covers tuition and fees.
At Least 4 Years of College		Program covers a maximum of two years (four semesters or 60 units)
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges		Program is available at <a href="#">eligible public two-and four-year institutions</a> .
Adult and Returning Students		Those who have a high school diploma or equivalent and have not earned an associate degree are eligible.
Students with a 2.0 GPA		Program requires only that students make satisfactory academic progress.
Students Enrolling Part Time		Program leaves it up to institutions to decide whether full-time or part-time enrollment is required to be eligible.
Does It Stay a Grant?		Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students		State law prohibits all undocumented students (even those with DACA) from receiving state aid.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students		<a href="#">Recently passed bill</a> allows currently and previously incarcerated students to be eligible for state aid. Note that residency requirements could make it difficult for currently incarcerated students to participate (Utah Code 53B-8-102 and Regent Policy R512).

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 7

## WASHINGTON COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** Students who meet income requirements can apply for the scholarship in seventh or eighth grade. The scholarship covers four years of tuition at public colleges and some fees at eligible two- and four-year public and private colleges. Eligible students must enroll within one year of graduating from high school. The College Bound award combines with other state financial aid to cover tuition but is not reduced when students receive other non-state aid, such as Pell Grants.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), based on family size and equal to 65% of the state's median family income. Students receiving basic food/TANF benefits and those who are in foster care or a dependent of the state are also eligible.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Awards cannot be used to cover living costs, but they are not reduced by receipt of non-tuition restricted federal and institutional grants. Awards are reduced by receipt of other state grants. Recipients with non-tuition restricted federal and institutional grants may use them to cover living costs. The program also provides a \$500 book stipend to all recipients.
Fees for All Recipients	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The program covers service and activity fees.
At Least 4 Years of College	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The program covers a maximum of four years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The program includes four-year institutions.
Adult and Returning Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	Students must enroll in college within one year of graduating high school and use the award within five years.
Students with a 2.0 GPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students must meet Washington state's satisfactory academic progress standard, which requires a 2.0 GPA or higher, but has a more frequent schedule for assessing credit accumulation than is used for satisfactory academic progress for financial aid.
Students Enrolling Part Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students must be enrolled in at least three credit hours per semester.
Does It Stay a Grant?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Undocumented students (with or without DACA or TPS) may participate if they establish Washington state residency.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	Students with a felony conviction are not eligible to participate. Wash. Rev. Code § 28B.118.010 (2018)

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 8

## WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT

**Status:** Active

**Summary:** The Washington College Grant is formerly known as the State Need Grant. The maximum award covers the full tuition at an in-state public college, university, community or technical college. Awards can be applied to tuition at private colleges or career training programs.

**Income Cap:** [Yes](#), beginning in the 2020-21 academic year, income eligibility will go up to 100% of state's median family income (MFI). Students from families with household incomes up to 55% of MFI receive the maximum award amount. Students from families with household incomes above 55% MFI receive partial awards on a sliding scale.

CRITERIA	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Living Costs for Low-Income Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Awards are not reduced by the receipt of other grant aid. Recipients can use other grant aid, such as the Pell Grant, to pay for living expenses.
Fees for All Recipients	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The program covers service and activity fees.
At Least 4 Years of College	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The program covers a maximum of five years.
Tuition for a Bachelor's Program at 4-Year Colleges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The maximum award amount will cover full tuition at any approved/eligible in-state public college or university, including community and technical colleges, or provide a comparable amount toward tuition and other education-related costs at an approved private college or career training program.
Adult and Returning Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility is not limited by year of high school graduation or prior college attendance.
Students with a 2.0 GPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students must meet Washington state's satisfactory academic progress standard, which requires a 2.0 GPA, but has a schedule for assessing credit accumulation than is used for satisfactory academic progress for financial aid.
Students Enrolling Part Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students must be enrolled in at least three credit hours.
Does It Stay a Grant?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aid never has to be repaid.
Access to Undocumented Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Undocumented students with or without DACA or TPS may participate if they establish Washington state residency.
Access to Previously and Currently Incarcerated Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students who are currently or formerly incarcerated may participate.

**Total Number of Criteria Met:** 10

## ABOUT THE EDUCATION TRUST

The Education Trust is a nonprofit organization that promotes closing opportunity gaps by expanding excellence and equity in education for students of color and those from low-income families from pre-kindergarten through college. Through research and advocacy, the organization builds and engages diverse communities that care about education equity, increases political and public will to act on equity issues, and increases college access and completion for historically underserved students.



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**The Education Trust**

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