



2023 Pennsylvania Promise Pilot Program Overview

Overview: The Pennsylvania Promise Pilot Program would be a statewide last-dollar promise program in the Commonwealth that would remove financial burdens for students and their families. The program would make college more affordable and lessen student debt for future generations. The program would cover tuition and fees for qualifying students as well as room and board for the most at-need students who attend a public university or community college.

Who qualifies / who it benefits:

- Students who are 24 years old or younger, have graduated from high school, and are a resident of the Commonwealth would qualify for the grant. Additionally:
 - Students whose household income is \$200,000 or below would have tuition and fees covered.
 - Students whose household income is \$60,000 or below would have tuition and fees as well as room and board covered.
- Adult learners who are 24 years old or older and are a resident of the Commonwealth would qualify for the adult-learner grant.
- The program would benefit working-class students and families across the Commonwealth.

Which institutions are impacted: Qualifying students could use their grants at:

- A Pennsylvania community college
- A state-owned (PASSHE) institution
- A state-related institution (using PASSHE tuition rate)
- The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
- An independent institution of higher education (added December 12, 2023)

Who administers the program: The program would be administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).

Cost/funding mechanism: The pilot program would be allocated \$225 million from the general fund with the follow breakdown:

- No more than \$125,000,000 for state-owned institutions
- No more than \$50,000,000 for state-related institutions
- No more than \$35,000,000 for community colleges
- No more than \$10,000,000 for adult learners
- No more than \$50,000,000 for an independent institution (added December 12, 2023)

Do other states have “promise” programs? Yes! 30 other states offer statewide promise programs.

Partners: Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF); American Federation of Teachers Pennsylvania (AFT PA); Keystone Research Center; Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA); United Steelworkers District 10

Learn more: www.PApromise.org

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