

Updated Eligibility, Testing Requirements to Increase Student Access to Detroit Promise Resources, Boost College Enrollment

Detroit (Date TBD) – Twenty colleges and universities in Michigan have announced new enrollment eligibility requirements for the Class of 2022 due to the pandemic. The new requirements have been updated for most four-year colleges to a 3.0 GPA and some testing requirements have been made optional, which makes funding more accessible to more students. The Detroit Promise application follows the same parameters as its partner colleges and universities and will be updated to align with the latest changes.

This eligibility update comes after the Detroit Promise, an initiative of the Detroit Regional Chamber that offers a tuition-free path to trade certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees, advocated for modified college eligibility requirements to ensure high school seniors are set up for success. The new requirements will allow more graduating Detroit high school seniors to have access to pursue a bachelor's degree.

In addition to the modified eligibility requirements, the Detroit Promise has launched a Path Back program, encouraging recent Detroit high school graduates who have not started or continued their college pursuit to utilize the Detroit Promise to attend one of six partnering community colleges. There are no GPA or exam scores requirements for two-year funding.

Students interested in applying for the Detroit Promise must be Detroit residents and graduate from a Detroit high school. To learn more about the Detroit Promise and view modified eligibility requirements, visit detroitpromise.com.

Who: Founded in 2013, the Detroit Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that ensures all eligible Detroit residents have a tuition-free path to an associate degree, bachelor's degree, or technical certificate at participating academic institutions.

The Detroit Regional Chamber has administered the Detroit Promise, which is funded by the Michigan Excellence in Education Foundation. The Promise has since expanded to include bachelor's degrees from four-year schools.

What: According to the 2021 State of Education report by the Detroit Regional Chamber, there was a 21.7% decline in college enrollment among 2020's high school graduates in Southeast Michigan.

The Detroit Promise is tackling efforts to increase enrollment, focusing on the educational needs of the students and residents they serve. The announcement of new eligibility requirements is the first step to improving the design of a determining factor that, in many cases, diminishes dreams of continuing education after high school.

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