

About New Haven Promise

Program and Mission

New Haven Promise (NHP) is a visionary program for the purposes of promoting college education as an aspiration for all New Haven Public School (NHPS) students; assisting graduating students from NHPS to pursue further education after high school; and enhancing the growth, stability, and economic development of the City of New Haven.

The mission of New Haven Promise is to improve the school district—by complementing and promoting School Change, the NHPS education reform initiative—and support economic development in New Haven by growing a competitive workforce and increasing homeownership. By providing economic access to two- and four-year colleges and universities to young people who want to learn, New Haven Promise helps reinforce a set of core values that make cities great.

School Change, has set three distinct goals:

- Reduce the achievement gap, bringing New Haven students to the Connecticut averages on the CMT and CAPT.
- Halve the dropout rate in five years.
- Make sure that every graduating student has the aspiration, academic ability, and the financial resources to attend and succeed in college.

Scholarship

The New Haven Promise scholarship is an annual award that covers full tuition for up to four years for any New Haven resident who graduates from a New Haven public school; who attends a Connecticut in-state public 2- or 4-year college or university; and who meets the following residency, civic behavior, and academic performance criteria:

Residency

- Be a New Haven resident and attend New Haven Public Schools or approved public charter school in the City of New Haven;

Civic Behavior

- Have a positive disciplinary record;
- Complete the community service requirement;
- Meet 90% attendance or better during high school (grades 9–12);

Academic Performance

- Receive a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or better upon graduation from New Haven public schools; and
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA during the years s/he is enrolled in post-secondary education to college.

Extent of Benefits

The tuition benefit will be scaled based on number of years student was a resident of New Haven and attended New Haven public schools.

Length of Attendance	Benefit	Length of Attendance	Benefit
Pre-K–12	100%	6–12	80%
K–12	100%	7–12	75%
1–12	95%	8–12	70%
2–12	95%	9–12	65%
3–12	95%	10–12	0%
4–12	90%	11–12	0%
5–12	85%	12–12	0%

Important Information for Potential New Haven Promise Recipients:

High School Graduating Classes of 2011–2014

The New Haven Promise program consisting of both support to the student and scholarship is designed to be an eight-year program (starting in the ninth grade of high school through graduation from a two- or four-year college or university). The City will launch the NHP program with the class of freshmen entering high school in 2010, making the high school graduating Class of 2014 the first students eligible to receive 100% of the scholarship. For students currently in high school in the graduating Classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013, the amount of the scholarship will be a percentage of the full award as follows:

- **Graduating Year 2011:** Eligible for 25% of the scholarship. Criteria determination of civic behavior, attendance, and academic performance will commence the 2010–2011 academic year. See Rules Book for details.
- **Graduating Year 2012:** eligible for 50% of the scholarship. Criteria determination of civic behavior, attendance, and academic performance will commence the 2010–2011 academic year. See Rules Book for details.
- **Graduating Year 2013:** eligible for 75% of the scholarship. Criteria determination of civic behavior, attendance, and academic performance will commence the 2010–2011 academic year. See Rules Book for details.
- **Graduating Year 2014:** eligible for 100% of the scholarship. Criteria determination of civic behavior, attendance, and academic performance will commence the 2010–2011 academic year. See Rules Book for details.

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Terms of Scholarship

- The scholarship will provide full tuition or other financial assistance as described below (for up to four years) to any New Haven resident who graduates from a New Haven public school and attends a Connecticut in-state public two- or four-year college or university. See the Rules Book for the list of eligible Connecticut colleges and universities and list of eligible New Haven public schools.
- For those students at public two- or four-year institutions for whom other scholarships and grants cover some or all of their tuition costs, NHP will provide either the difference between tuition and the other scholarships/grants or \$2,500, whichever is greater, as long as there is a remaining deficit between the total cost of education and the scholarships/grants from all sources, and further subject to guidance from the NHP Board.
- For students matriculating at Connecticut in-state nonprofit colleges or universities NHP will contribute up to a maximum of \$2,500 per year toward the total cost of education. This \$2,500 contribution will be the “last money in,” meaning it will only be made available to the student to cover remaining costs after all other sources of financial aid have been used.
- The term “total cost of education” shall include the costs of tuition, fees, room, and board.
- Students are eligible for two years of scholarships for two-year institutions for up to three years after graduation from high school and for four years of scholarships for four-year institutions for up to five years after graduation from high school. When these three and five year windows expire, respectively, the student will no longer be eligible for funding, even if the student has begun his or her education but has not yet completed it. In both cases, enrollment must be full-time. Students moving from two-year to four-year institutions are eligible for up to four years of scholarships total.

Eligible Colleges and Universities

New Haven Promise will cover the full tuition (for up to four years) to a Connecticut in-state public college or university for any New Haven resident that graduates from a New Haven public school or New Haven Promise will contribute an annual maximum scholarship of \$2,500 toward the total cost of education to any Connecticut in-state nonprofit college or university for any New Haven resident that graduates from a New Haven public school.

Public Colleges and Universities

- Asnuntuck CC
- Capital CC
- Central CT State University
- Charter Oak State College
- Eastern CT State University
- Gateway CC
- Housatonic CC
- Manchester CC
- Middlesex CC
- Naugatuck Valley CC
- Northwestern CT CC
- Norwalk CC
- Quinebaug Valley CC
- Southern CT State University
- Three Rivers CC
- Tunxis CC
- University of Connecticut
- Western CT State University

Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

- Albertus Magnus College
- Connecticut College
- Fairfield University
- Goodwin College
- Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts
- Mitchell College
- Quinnipiac University
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Joseph College
- St. Vincent’s College
- Trinity College
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Hartford
- University of New Haven
- Wesleyan University
- Yale University

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Guidelines

All potential New Haven Promise (NHP) recipients should strive to do their very best while in high school and beyond. This Rules Book defines the terms of the scholarship criteria.

Residency Requirement

“Be a New Haven resident and attend New Haven Public Schools or approved public charter school in the City of New Haven” as described under the first bullet of the scholarship criteria shall mean a Promise recipient must concurrently be a resident of New Haven and be enrolled in New Haven Public Schools (including approved public charter schools in the City of New Haven).

- Enrollment for each year will only be counted if a student enrolls by October 1st of that academic year.
- Continuous residency and enrollment applies to students who leave New Haven Public Schools or approved public charter schools in the City of New Haven but then return.
- The school year when students return (as stated above) will be the year from which the Extent of Benefits is calculated.
- Students are allowed to transfer between New Haven Public Schools and public charter schools in the City of New Haven without penalty.

[EXAMPLE: “Student Name” lived in New Haven and was enrolled in NHPS in Kindergarten. “Student Name” then moved to California in Grade 3 and was enrolled in a California public school from Grades 3–5. “Student Name” moves back to New Haven in Grade 8 but does not return to (enroll in) NHPS until Grade 9. “Student Name” would receive 65% of the scholarship benefit because even though “Student Name” was in living in New Haven in the 8th grade, s/he was not enrolled in a NHPS until Grade 9.]

Civic Behavior Requirement

“Have a positive disciplinary record” as described under the second bullet of the scholarship criteria shall mean a Promise recipient must never be expelled from NHPS or applicable public charter schools in the City of New Haven while in high school (grades 9–12).

“Community service” as described under the third bullet of the scholarship criteria shall mean a Promise recipient must volunteer (service rendered for no compensation) at a local not-for-profit, community-based organization, or private sector organization for a minimum of 40 cumulative hours while in high school (grades 9–12).

- Guidance counselors will review what acceptable community service options are for students.
- Students must submit to their guidance counselors proof of volunteer hours with a letter from the supervisor of the organization in which hours are served.
- The letter (as mentioned above) must be written on the organizations’ letterhead in order for guidance counselors to accept the letter.
- No volunteer hours will be accepted without a course code, which will be provided by guidance counselors only.

“90% attendance or better during high school (grades 9–12)” as described under the fourth bullet of the scholarship criteria shall mean a Promise recipient must not miss more than 10% of enrolled school days. Absences include both excused and unexcused absences. Absences include suspension time.

Academic Performance Requirement

“Receive a cumulative 3.0 GPA or better upon graduation from New Haven public schools” as described under the fifth bullet shall mean a Promise recipient must receive at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA upon graduation from high school in order to receive a scholarship.

“Maintain a 2.5 GPA during the years s/he is enrolled in post-secondary education to college” as described under the sixth bullet shall mean a Promise recipient must receive at least a 2.5 GPA each semester while in college in order to continue receiving a Promise scholarship.