



# Fact Sheet

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE DEMOCRATS

DEMOCRATS-EDWORKFORCE.HOUSE.GOV

The Hon. Bobby Scott • Ranking Member

## America's College Promise Act of 2015

Every student in America deserves a fair shot at a higher education and a path to the middle class. By 2020, an estimated 65 percent of job openings will require postsecondary education or training. A highly educated workforce will be necessary for our nation to compete in a global economy. Yet, approximately 100 million adults in America today have no postsecondary experience.

The **America's College Promise Act of 2015** makes a bold investment in our nation's students, its workforce and the future of our economy by making two years of community college free and providing an affordable pathway to a four-year college degree. Under the America's College Promise Act, more than 9 million students at 1,300 community colleges and nearly 300,000 students at approximately 340 four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving institutions (AANAPISIs) and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), stand to benefit each year.

***America's College Promise is built on the premise that students should have the opportunity to access quality and affordable higher education that gives them the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st century economy. Under America's College Promise, students will gain:***

### Access and Affordability

- Provides a federal match of \$3 for every \$1 invested by the state to waive community college tuition and fees for eligible students before other financial aid is applied.
- Helps cover a significant portion of tuition and fees— for either their first two years or last two years of college—for low-income students who choose to attend qualifying HBCUs, HSIs, AANAPISIs and other MSIs.
- Allows students to continue to take advantage of other state and federal financial to free up funds assist with other costs of attendance at school, such as books, room and board, and more.

### Quality

- Requires states to make tailored, evidence-based reforms of their public higher education systems that focus on improving completion and other student outcomes, such as mentoring for first-generation and minority students, dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and more.
- HBCUs, HSIs, AANAPISIs and other MSIs will also be required to take on evidence-based reforms to participate in the program.

### Pathways

- Ensures that community colleges offer academic programs that are fully transferable to four-year institutions in their state, or occupational training that leads to credentials in an in-demand industry.
- Provides federal funds to create a pathway to a four-year degree at any qualifying HBCUs, HSIs, AANAPISIs and other MSIs for low-income students transferring from a community college.