

# Promise Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

**(MAPZA) Board Policy:** Revised January 2025, reviewed March 2025 and approved

As required by our state approved Development Plan, the Muskegon Area Promise Zone Authority (MAPZA) will approve the Promise's annual academic eligibility criteria which includes required GPA and/or class rank along with any terms pertinent to the Promise Scholarship annually.

Current eligibility limitations include students who: 1) earn a cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) upon graduation that meets or exceeds a 2.50 unweighted GPA minimum, 2) have predetermined CTC eligibility and 3) have predetermined Homeschool eligibility. Note: GPA eligibility is identified and determined by the graduation year identified on final records of students. Any Zone reductions in GPA eligibility by cohort, is not retroactive. In adherence with the Promise Zone Authority Act – our promise of financial assistance to all eligible students include fostering a path to a degree, and/or other high-quality credential. Award terms, limitations and allowances include:

- Promise Scholarships may only be used to fund educational opportunities at an Eligible Institution.  
**Local Colleges: (with a FAFSA)**
  - Muskegon Community College
  - Baker College of Muskegon
  - Nuvo College of Cosmetology Muskegon
  
- **Local Career Training Programs: (without a FAFSA)**
  - Nuvo College of Cosmetology Muskegon
  - Prosperous Healthcare Training Muskegon (Scheduled to open soon)
  - Other Muskegon County eligible [Career Training Programs](#) which qualify to receive scholarship funds under the Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship and the Michigan Reconnect Short-Term Training Program.
  
- Students must accept/apply for a Promise Scholarship annually. Students are eligible for open and year-round enrollment, however Promise Scholarships may not begin before the Fall term immediately following a Promise Scholarship recipient's high school graduation without the approval of the MAPZA.
  
- Eligible students will receive a Promise Scholarship for financial assistance of **qualified educational expenses** as identified by the Promise Zone Act and state approved Development Plan. At a minimum, scholarships will provide assistance for the cost of obtaining up to an Associate degree at an Eligible Institution, and at a maximum must not exceed the cost of obtaining a Bachelor's degree at an Eligible Institution. The MAPZA considers qualified educational expenses to include a variety of expenses. Allowable costs may be inclusive of one or more of the following: tuition and fees required for the enrollment or attendance, expenses for books, supplies or equipment required for courses of instruction, other costs of attendance barriers including: the cost of housing and food, transportation expenses, miscellaneous expenses including a reasonable amount for the documented cost of a personal computer, allowance for child care or other dependent care, costs related to a disability, costs of obtaining a license, certification, or a first professional credential and reasonable costs for study abroad programs. Promise Scholarships that are awarded to eligible students pursuing any path or credential will include limitations defined below.
  
- Promise Scholarships will be valued at an amount the MAPZA determines is sufficient to pay for qualified educational expenses for full time enrollment over three terms (Fall, Winter and Summer) per school year. Subject to that maximum, a student's Promise Scholarship amount may be used to support a

full range of qualified educational expenses (as defined above) after the student has applied for and accepted all federal, state and institutional grants for a given year. Note: Some Promise Scholarships may be limited to a maximum dollar threshold approved annually by the MAPZA, and proof of some expenses may require an MAPZA Appeal Application.

- **25/26 Annual capped rate for Muskegon Community College - No Cap**
  - **25/26 Annual capped rate for Baker College - \$5,500 (Up to 72 credits)**
  - **25/26 Annual capped rate for Baker College - \$2,750 (73-120 credits)**
  - **25/26 Annual capped rate for Nuvo College of Cosmetology - No Cap with FAFSA, \$2000 without FAFSA**
  - **25/26 Annual capped rate for Career Training Programs - \$2,000**
  - **Study abroad will be limited to (1) lifetime experience and capped at the cost for tuition, fees and books/supplies/equipment only**
- An allowance for books/supplies/equipment required for courses of instruction will be offered to all Promise Scholarship recipients. The value of the allowance will be determined and approved by the MAPZA annually and may be subject to change. Allowances that are not used by eligible and enrolled students, may be refunded to the student directly by their chosen Eligible Institution allowing students the opportunity to successfully pay for other cost of attendance barriers as identified above. Note: Distribution of combined awards earned by eligible students for similar non restricted aid - may not exceed the student's Cost of Attendance (COA).
    - **25/26 Annual rate capped - \$1,000**
  - Promise Scholarships will be funded at full value for all students who have confirmed enrollment and residency within the MAISD boundaries for grades 9-12. A prorated amount of the award will be available for all other cases, at 25% each year enrolled.
  - Monies will be paid directly to the applicable Eligible Institution following an institutional invoice process.
  - Eligible students must comply with the Eligible Institution's standards for satisfactory academic progress (SAP) and must declare themselves as either degree-seeking; or a summer guest student.
  - The Promise Scholarship will pay up to a maximum of 72 credits for vocational career training or Associate degree-seeking students, 12 credits for summer guest students and 120 credits for Bachelor's degree-seeking students.
  - Eligible students can be enrolled as full time or less and will have a maximum of ten years from their respective high school graduation to use the Promise Scholarship award. All Promise Scholarship awards will expire, and be forfeited, ten years after the eligible student's recorded high school graduation date.
  - Primary communication with Promise Scholarship recipients will be in electronic format once they have enrolled at an Eligible Institution. At the discretion of the MAPZA, email, text and social media may be used. Promise Scholarship recipients are required to provide the MAPZA with a valid email address.
  - Any MAISD student enrolled in colleges under the definition of high school dual enrollment are not eligible for Promise Scholarships.