New Haven: Delivering on a Promise

This past year, New Haven embarked on groundbreaking education reform—School Change—based on national recognition and acclaim. Collaboratively working with unions and charters, the New Haven Public Schools continue to make steady improvements in the school district so that children get the education they deserve. We are pleased to launch New Haven Promise, a visionary scholarship and support program for New Haven public school students and the capstone of School Change. Promise communities are those that invest in education and economic development through place-based scholarship programs. New Haven Promise has three goals:

- Cultivating an aspirational view of college education in New Haven public school students;
- Building community and parental engagement;
- Growing economic development in the City of New Haven.

New Haven Promise will be a catalyst for reduction in high school dropouts, crime, and incarceration; an increase in high school graduates, quality of life, and homeownership; and a culture of college- and career-readiness, high expectations, and hope for our young people and our City. It will help motivate children to believe they can succeed and promote a laser focus for adults so that they work together to help students achieve.

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A responsibility of community leadership, institutions, and organizations is to promote and strengthen the capabilities of New Haven’s youth to think critically, be creative, display patience and perseverance, perform under pressure, and work efficiently as a group. As a Promise city, we make a commitment to our young people—New Haven’s future—that we believe they are worth investing in and do so by placing a value on education as the best possible return on that investment. Education can be the silver bullet to ending poverty, reducing crime, and creating worth investing in and in doing so place a value on education as the best possible return on that investment.

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New Haven: Delivering on a Promise is the capstone of School Change to national recognition and acclaim. This past year, New Haven embarked on groundbreaking education reform—School Change—to national recognition and acclaim. Collaboratively working with unions and charters, the New Haven Public Schools continue to make steady improvements in the school district so that children get the education they deserve. We are pleased to launch New Haven Promise, a visionary scholarship and support program for New Haven public school students and the capstone of School Change.

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**New Haven Promise**

Making the Promise of College a Reality

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 in pursuing 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 increasing homeownership, New Haven Promise helps reinforce a set of core values that make cities great.

The form must be mailed to: New Haven Promise www.newhavenpromise.org.

Parent’s Corner

Decades of research shows that when parents are involved students have:
- Fewer instances of violent behavior
- Lower rates of suspension
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance

**What Can You Do to Help Your Child Succeed?**

At Home:
- Establish a daily family routine
- Talk to your child about his or her schoolwork every day
- Encourage your child to read
- Limit TV viewing and video game playing
- Encourage your child to use the library
- Set high expectations for your child(ren) and his or her school

At School:
- Attend orientations
- Attend Report Card Nights
- Participate in school functions and meetings
- Volunteer at your child(ren)’s school

**Who is eligible?**

New Haven students who are admitted to and enroll in a Connecticut-in-state public 2- or 4-year college or university and who meet 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 schools in the City of New Haven.

**Civic Behavior**
- Have a positive disciplinary record.
- Complete the community service requirement.
- Achieve 90% attendance or better during high school (grades 9-12).

**Academic Performance**
- Achieve 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.

(See Rules Book for details.)

**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 2- or 4-year college or university.

- For those students at public 2- or 4-year institutions for whom other scholarships and grants cover all or all of their education costs, NHP will provide either the difference between tuition and the other scholarships/grants or $2,500, whichever is greater, for up to four years after graduation from high school and for four years of scholarship.

- For students matriculating at Connecticut in-state nonprofit colleges or universities NHP will provide up to a $2,500 annual scholarship toward full tuition or other costs of education. This $2,500 contribution will be the "last money" meaning that only the balance available to the student to cover remaining costs after all other sources of financial aid have been used.

- The "total cost of education" shall include the costs of tuition, fees, room, and board.

- Students are eligible for two years of scholarships for 4-year institutions for up to five years after graduation from high school and for four years of scholarships for 2-year institutions for up to five years after graduation from high school.

- The tuition benefit will be scaled based on the total cost of education and the scholarships/grants or $2,500, whichever is greater, for up to four years after graduation from high school. When these phases end, a student who has used all his or her scholarships will no longer be eligible for funding, even if the student has begun her or her education but has not yet completed it. In other words, enrollment must be full-time. Students moving from a New Haven public school years are eligible for up to four years of scholarships.

**Facts About New Haven Promise**

**Step One—Sign the NHP Pledge**

- NHPS Form must be filled out to enroll in program. (Deadline: Nov. 30 of Senior Year)
- The form may be obtained from the guidance counseling office or downloaded from www.newhavenpromise.org.
- The form must be returned to the guidance counseling office.

**Step Two—Apply for the NHP Scholarship**

- NHSP Application Form must be filled out prior to March of a student’s senior year.
- The form may be obtained from the guidance counseling office or downloaded from www.newhavenpromise.org.
- The form must be returned to the guidance counseling office.
- Once the application is approved, NHP will mail the student a letter indicating the amount of the scholarship.

**Step Three—Tell us where you’re headed**

- NHSP Scholarship Acceptance Form must be completed once a student has been accepted to a participating college or university.
- The form may be obtained from the guidance counseling office or downloaded from www.newhavenpromise.org.
- The form must be mailed to: New Haven Promise 6th Crescent Street —SCSU Bailey Library
New Haven, CT, 06515

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