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More students will have access to the Oregon Promise

New projections open the program to all of Oregon's students

SALEM – The future is becoming brighter for more Oregon students who will have access to the Oregon Promise in the next academic year.

The Oregon Promise is a state grant that helps to cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for high school graduates and GED recipients who meet certain criteria. In 2017-18, due to budgetary constraints, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission limited Oregon Promise Grant eligibility to students based on their Expected Family Contribution. Recent projections for the program, however, will allow HECC to eliminate the EFC limitation going forward.

“The best way to build the middle class in Oregon is through education,” said Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, who was a chief architect of the Oregon Promise. “This is fantastic news that more of our students, regardless of their parents’ income, will be able to get the training they need to become mechanics, nurses, welders and medical assistants, or to begin earning credits toward four-year degrees.”

Created by the passage of [Senate Bill 81](#) in the 2015 Legislative Session, the Oregon Promise covers the cost of Oregon community college tuition that is not paid by federal financial aid and scholarships. The student pays a \$50 co-pay each term. Last academic year, nearly 6,800 recent high school graduates and GED completers used the program to attend community colleges, and 44 percent of those were first-generation college students. More than 19,000 students statewide applied.

To qualify for the Oregon Promise program, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Complete an Oregon Promise Grant Application before the deadline;
- File a FAFSA or ORSAA application and list at least one community college;
- Be a recent Oregon high school graduate or GED recipient;
- Document a 2.5 cumulative or higher high school grade-point average, or score 145 or higher on each GED test;
- Plan to attend at least half-time at an Oregon community college within 6 months of high school graduation or GED completion;
- Be an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to going to college; and
- Must not have more than 90 college credits completed or attempted.

“Community college is great for helping every Oregonian get ahead,” Hass said. “Not everyone has the resources, readiness or interest to attend a four-year institution directly out of high school and the Oregon Promise ensures those students aren’t left behind. Now that the Oregon Promise is available to students regardless of their parents’ income, we’ve put this option within reach of thousands more students.”

More information about the Oregon Promise is available online at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx>.

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