OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

the pittsburgh

OUR MISSION

The Pittsburgh Promise promotes high educational aspirations among urban youth, funds scholarships for post-secondary access, and fuels a prepared and diverse regional workforce.

High School Graduation Rates

Percentage Points

The percentage of students who entered the 9th grade and, four years later, earned a high school diploma grew from 68% in 2011 to 82% in 2021

Promise Eligibility

Percentage Points

The percentage of high school seniors who met the combined minimum GPA and attendance requirements to receive a scholarship grew from 47% in 2008 to 58% in 2022

Degree Attainment

Percentage Points

for low-income students

Degree Attainment UP 10 Percentage Points

for middle-income students

78% of Promise Scholars come from low income households of Promise Scholars come from middle income households

PROMISE ALUMNI

have been employeed by more than 700 regional companies and organizations half of Promise Scholars are students of color

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The macro-environment in which The Promise operates today is vastly different than that which existed when we began in 2008. These environmental changes include:

Shifting demographics within Pittsburgh Public Schools – In 2008, PPS had 1,966 graduates, 54% of whom were students of color and 35-40% were low-income. In 2022, PPS graduated 1,353 students, of whom 63% were students of color and 67% were low-income.

Skyrocketing costs of higher education and government student aid that has not kept up – In 2008, The Promise scholarship, at \$5,000/year, covered the average unmet need facing our lowest income students. Today, to pursue a four-year degree or trade certification, this same cohort faces an average affordability gap of \$5,000, after The Promise scholarship has been applied.

Lingering pandemic repercussions – Across the country, post-secondary enrollment has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, despite research that a post-secondary degree or certification is increasingly valuable in uncertain economic times.

TO RISE TO THESE CHALLENGES, THE PROMISE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT:

ONGOING COVID RELIEF

The Promise waived

attendance and GPA

eligibility requirements

for the class of 2021

and attendance for the

classes of 2022- 2024

to mitigate pandemic

disruptions.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

The Promise is actively advocating for the public sector to commit to a sustainable policy solution for funding postsecondary education in Pennsylvania.

PROMISE COACHES

Promise Coaches are working with all students in three high schools to provide career exploration and postsecondary planning.

COLLEGE AMBASSADORS

College Ambassadors on seven local campuses are building peer-to-peer connections with and between Promise Scholars, which research shows promotes post-secondary persistence and student success.

TEXT NUDGES

The Promise manages texting campaigns to maintain relationships with our scholars and help them to remain on track while pursuing their degrees. Utilizing this research-backed approach also aids in re-enrolling scholars that have stopped out and deepening connections with our alumni.

POST-SECONDARY FUNDING

As of December 31, 2022, Promise Scholars have leveraged over \$435 million in critical post-secondary funding, of which The Promise scholarship is the single, largest source.

The Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship \$153,367,435.93

Post-Secondary Institutional Aid \$139,269,356.01

Government Grants \$131,359,917.73

Independent Scholarships \$11,604,489.47

Total \$435,601,199.14

Spring 2023