the pittsburgh promise

Impact at a Glance

OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

High school graduation rate grew

68%	85%*
in 2011	in 2025

*When including students who take five years to complete their high school credits, the graduation rate rises to 89%.

MORE THAN HALF
of Promise Scholars are
STUDENTS OF COLOR

75% of Promise Scholars rely on additional, need-based financial aid to pay for their post-secondary education.

Students meeting Promise eligibility benchmarks grew
(2.0 GPA, 90% attendance, and continuous Pittsburgh residency and PPS enrollment from 9th grade)

47% in 2008 TO **64%** in 2025

Final scholarship eligibility includes students who meet the benchmarks above, qualify through The Promise's appeals process, or receive special accommodations through our partnership with Allegheny County's Department of Human Services.

In the Class of 2025, 78% of students were eligible for The Promise scholarship.

PPS students who entered college in 2023 persisted to their second year at rates on par with national averages.

78%	78%
PPS	NSC

OVER 730 PITTSBURGH REGIONAL COMPANIES

have hired Promise Alumni

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Impact at a Glance

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY WITH FAFSA AND FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT

The Promise has always required FAFSA completion because we know how many opportunities this one form can unlock. Today, we provide workshops and one-on-one support to help students and families complete financial aid forms accurately and on time. As Pennsylvania moves to require FAFSA for graduation, The Promise is well positioned to be a key partner in helping PPS students prepare for what comes next. By guiding students through FAFSA and identifying additional funding opportunities, we help students access every dollar available to support their future. **To date, Promise students have unlocked more than $577 million in critical post-secondary funding.**

Academic Years 2008-09 through 2024-25.

Promise Scholarship: **$183,865,727**	Estimated Institutional Aid **$207,809,149**
Estimated Government Grants **$170,674,696**	Estimated Independent Scholarships: **$14,708,795**

Approximate Grand Total Aid Received by Promise Scholars:

$577,058,368

BEYOND THE SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships alone are not enough. The Promise helps students prepare, plan, and pursue their futures not only through FAFSA support, but also college and career exploration, peer leadership opportunities, and post-secondary planning. These supports are available to all students across PPS and its charters. They are designed to help more young people access opportunities, navigate complex systems, and stay on track toward their goals. We will continue to expand this work, and build supports that will endure well beyond the scholarship.

Data from our coaching work demonstrate that personalized, proactive support leads to stronger student outcomes.

FAFSA COMPLETION

increased across all coaching schools in 2025.

FINANCIAL AID LEVERAGED

at coaching schools has steadily increased, reaching $13,000–$20,000 per student (in addition to the Promise scholarship), among the highest in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Promise Scholarship administrative data, current as of 6/1/2026

Evaluation for Learning Group at the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Promise Metrics: Fall 2025 Analysis, revised February 18, 2026.