



The America's College Promise Act of 2017

House Democrats firmly believe every American should have access to meaningful degree at an affordable cost that leads to a good-paying job. The skills and credentials necessary to succeed in today's economy must be accessible and affordable for working families, and the accessible and affordable option for most Americans is at a local community college.

This bill will create partnerships between the federal government and states to make skills development and a meaningful credential affordable for all students – whether they are recent high school graduates or established workers looking to retrain to be competitive in the marketplace.

Under *America's College Promise (ACP)*:

- The federal government will partner with states (75/25 percent cost share) to provide tuition- and fee-free community college to all students.
 - Students must attend school on a part-time basis and maintain satisfactory academic progress at a minimum.
 - States must make evidence-based reforms of their public higher education systems, ones that are focused on improving completion and other student outcomes.
- The federal government will provide grants to cover a significant portion of tuition and fees for the first two years of attendance for low-income students enrolling at qualifying Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).
 - Students must attend school on a part-time basis and make satisfactory academic progress at a minimum.
 - In return the MSIs must undertake reforms focused on improving completion and other student outcomes.

What ACP Means for America's Working Families:

- Students have access to the skills and credentials necessary to get ahead in the workplace at an affordable cost;
- Low-income students may attend two years at a community colleges and two years at an eligible four-year MSI and receive significant tuition and fee grant aid for their whole college career;
- All students, not just first-time full-time students, will have access to tuition and fee free programs at community colleges; and
- Students who wish to pursue a four year degree will have an easier path to do so, while students looking to get a credential for a new job can do that and then return to the job market.