

Free Community College:

Comparison of 3 Plans

	President's proposal – "America's College Promise"	Tennessee Promise Link 2	Senator Hass' Oregon proposal (SB 81)
Eligibility:	Adult students and recent high school graduates	Any high school senior who recently graduates from a Tennessee eligible high school or recently completes a Tennessee home school program	<p>Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to beginning the courses;</p> <p>Has not earned more than 90 quarter hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institution of education;</p> <p>And</p> <p>Received a diploma or a GED from an Oregon high school</p>
Student requirements:	<p>Attend at least half-time;</p> <p>Maintain a 2.5 GPA;</p> <p>And</p> <p>Make steady progress towards completion</p>	<p>Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 1st of each year beginning in high school and throughout his/her postsecondary experience ;</p> <p>Attend all scheduled team meetings and a mandatory college orientation;</p> <p>Begin at the postsecondary institution in the fall directly following high school graduation and remain at an eligible institution for consecutive semesters;</p> <p>Maintain at least 12 hours each semester;</p> <p>Maintain satisfactory academic progress. At</p>	<p>Accept all state and federal grant aid available to the person;</p> <p>No full-time enrollment requirement</p>

		<p>most institutions, this is the equivalent of maintaining a 2.0 GPA each semester;</p> <p>And</p> <p>Complete at least eight hours of community service each semester</p>	
Institution requirements:	Colleges must adopt promising and evidence-based institutional reforms to improve student outcomes		
Funding:	<p>First-dollar waiver; funding for tuition costs would be applied prior to the allocation of financial aid awards, such as Pell Grants</p> <p>Federal funding will cover three-quarters of the average cost of community college;</p> <p>States that choose to participate* will be expected to contribute the remaining one-quarter of funds necessary to eliminate community college tuition for eligible students</p>	<p>The Tennessee Promise will be funded within existing resources by interest from the newly established Tennessee Promise endowment and by changing the HOPE award for students attending community colleges from \$2,000 per year to \$3,000 per year, while reducing the award amount at the four--year institutions for freshmen and sophomores from \$4,000 per year to \$3,000 per year. The endowment will continue to grow as any net lottery proceeds above the general shortfall reserve will be added to the Tennessee Promise endowment;</p> <p>Last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or TSAA funds</p>	<p>Tuition waiver; no funding attached to bill;</p> <p>Qualifying students to pay \$50 per course;</p> <p>Last-dollar plan, meaning students would have to apply for federal and state financial aid and use any they receive to pay for community college tuition. Only after that money is collected and the student pays the \$50 co-pay would the state step in to make the rest of tuition free</p>

* Optional for states to participate in the free community college plan