

SBCCD Promise Proposal to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Why do we need a Promise Program?

High school graduation rates in the Inland Empire are on the rise, however when it comes to college enrollment and completion, our region still lags behind the state average. The California Chamber of Commerce estimates that our state will be short 1.1 million workers with bachelor's degrees and 2.3 million community college certificates and degrees to fill tomorrow's high-skilled jobs. As the gateway to postsecondary education in our region, the community colleges in our district will play a pivotal role in our future prosperity. We need to produce qualified workers, increase degree and certificate attainment, and remove the financial and social barriers to higher education that many of our community members face.

What is our Promise?

The SBCCD Promise program uses three major strategies to meet our region's educational needs:

- 1) We will mitigate financial need
- 2) We will ensure students are guided, supported, connected, and prepared for the world of work
- 3) We will promote a college-going culture in our community's children

To whom do we make this Promise?

The program will focus on students in designated dual enrollment courses offered at our local high schools and from the general high school graduate population.

How will we fulfill our Promise?

- 1) The colleges will develop partnerships with local K-12 districts to increase awareness of the opportunities offered and to develop in students an expectation that college is in their future and to promote college/career readiness. Elementary, middle, and high school students and their parents will be encouraged to participate in campus tours, cultural events, and academic workshops and symposiums.
- 2) High school students will be encouraged to enroll in dual enrollment/credit options.
- 3) High school graduates, who meet the eligibility requirements (i.e. enroll for at least 12 units per semester, apply for financial aid, agree to follow "Promise" program guidelines) will be provided with two years of free tuition and financial assistance for college expenses, such as textbooks, transportation, and expenses over and above the students' grants or scholarships.
- 4) Each "Promise" student will receive early and ongoing counseling, guidance, and an educational plan showing the courses needed to reach his or her goal.
- 5) The colleges will provide relevant programs that meet current and future labor market needs and adopt block scheduling practices that ensure students can complete their programs within two years or less.
- 6) During the sophomore year, "Promise" students will participate in a work-based learning enhancement opportunities (i.e. paid internships, apprenticeships, and/or on- and off-campus job placements).

How will we pay for it?

The net cost per high school graduate "Promise" student is \$2,619 (after deducting financial aid contributions). An endowment created by the District will provide \$53,000,000 (\$2,650,000 annually). The program will pay for enrollment fees, books and other costs, staffing, and direct services to Promise students.