

BUCHANAN PROMISE

Student Handbook 2022-23

How this guide is intended to be used:

- General Overview
- Requirements to meet
- Important deadlines
- Avoid common mistakes



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Introduction

Hello, Class of 2023! The Michigan Gateway Community Foundation is thrilled to inform you about the college and career scholarship opportunities available to you through the Buchanan Promise. Research shows earning a degree or pursuing secondary education after high school greatly benefits your career and earning potential, so let's get started.

The Buchanan Promise is a first-dollar scholarship that covers tuition, books, supplies, and fees related to attending your educational institution. A frequent misconception of the Buchanan Promise is that you need to attend college to utilize this opportunity. That is false! The Buchanan Promise applies to 4-year and 2-year programs, trade school programs, apprenticeships, etc.

This handbook will be an essential toolkit as you navigate your senior year. To receive the Buchanan Promise scholarship, you must first become eligible by completing the steps and meeting the deadlines outlined in this handbook. Included, you will find a timeline for the year, be sure to note these dates in your calendar. You are not obligated to participate in this program; however, you must go through the initial application process, as you have **six years** to take advantage of this opportunity.

Throughout your senior year, you are responsible for maintaining timely and active communication with our scholarship program. We will send text messages and emails to you and a parent (optional) with important updates and information. You'll be able to reach us anytime for support – you are not alone! The Buchanan Promise is eager to support you, and we look forward to celebrating the option you choose after high school!

Please check out our website for more information, www.buchananpromise.com!

Yours Truly,

The Buchanan Promise Team @ MGCF!

Meet the MGCF & Buchanan Promise Team!



Michael Rowland
President and CEO



Nicole Mireles
Program Officer
Scholarships & Buchanan Promise



Jennifer Popielski
Program Officer
Kickstart To Career & YAC



Caitlyn Tucker
Administrative Intern

Eligible Opportunities

The Buchanan Promise Scholarship is a first-dollar tuition scholarship to that is applicable towards the following accredited post-secondary institutions that can be used for educational expenses, including tuition, fees, books, and room & board:

- 1 All four-year degree programs
- 2 All two-year degree programs
- 3 Certificate or vocational/trade programs*



Ask about our appeal process if you're deemed ineligible for the Buchanan Promise or your program doesn't qualify

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



1. The Buchanan Promise is for students who reside within the boundaries of Buchanan Community Schools and graduate from Buchanan Community Schools.
2. The length of your residency & enrollment determines the size of your scholarship, up to \$3,750 per school year.
3. The Buchanan Promise is PERMANENT and you can attend ANY accredited post-secondary institution for which you qualify.
4. No merit-based criteria is used to qualify for the Buchanan Promise, but once attending a post-secondary educational institution you must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.
5. The Buchanan Promise can be used for a 2-year or 4-year degree, a certificate or vocational/trade programs.
6. The Buchanan Promise is for college or training costs covering tuition, fees, housing, meals books or other educational related expenses that can be charged through an account at your educational institution.
7. You have 6 years from the time you graduate from high school to use your Promise scholarship and can start & stop at any time.
8. Students must apply for the Buchanan Promise no later than June 30th in their senior year and renew annually.
9. There is an appeal process for ineligible students during their senior year. Residency outside of the district while attending BCS is not appealable.
10. Payments are made directly to your educational institution after verification of enrollment is received. We CANNOT reimburse students for educational expenses.

How do I become a Buchanan Promise Scholar?



 Eligibility

1

First, let's figure out if you are eligible to apply! Scan the QR code, found above & below, or go to our website at www.buchananpromise.com for more information



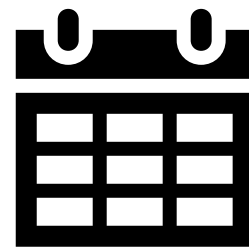
 Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Must be a resident within the Buchanan Community School District
- ✓ Must attend Buchanan Community Schools for a minimum of 4 years including 9-12th grade
- ☆ Scan the QR code to see if your address qualifies!

See Determination of Benefits page for how much you could qualify for!

Completing your Buchanan Promise Pledge



2

If eligible to apply, you **MUST** meet the following deadlines to successfully enroll in the Buchanan Promise.

- ☑ **STEP #1: Submit your Promise Eligibility Application by June 30th, 2023**
This is the MOST important step! The Promise Pledge opens January 9th, 2023 at www.buchananpromise.com. You'll receive a confirmation email that your application was successfully submitted. Keep in mind, completing the Promise Pledge does NOT obligate you to use your Promise Funds immediately after graduation; however, it is required to access your funds available during the 6-years post-graduation. You will receive an email to confirm your Promise Pledge/Application was successfully submitted.

- ☑ **STEP #2: Submit your Promise Acceptance/Deferral by June 30th, 2023**
Once deemed eligible, you must submit a request to receive the Buchanan Promise during your 6-year post-graduation timeframe by completing the acceptance form. When you complete your acceptance form, you will indicate whether you are **accepting** or **deferring** the Promise for the '23 fall semester. Should you choose to accept, you will need to complete the Buchanan Promise Application (see next step) in Order for us to complete the process of sending a check to your school or program.

- ☑ **STEP #3: Complete the Buchanan Promise Application/Renewal by July 14th, 2023**

How the Process Works

Qualifying and ultimately receiving the Buchanan Promise scholarship depends on successfully completing the steps outlined below. Check and verify that you complete each step to ensure you become and remain eligible for this scholarship opportunity!

①

Submit your promise pledge

Completed senior year of high school

The Buchanan Promise Team matches your Promise Application to your Buchanan student ID file and verifies your address for eligibility.

You will receive a letter once your eligibility status has been determined, indicating whether you were approved or denied.

②

Submit your Promise acceptance or renewal

*Required: Fall Transcript or Tuition Statement
Student ID – from where you will be attending
GPA – renewals only*

Deadline: July 14th, 2023

All required documentation must be submitted before your check can be processed.

*Confirm with the financial aid department at your school that your check was received. **it will be a minimum of 2 weeks before your institution will receive and post your Promise check.*

③

Not attending post-secondary education immediately?

*Required: Submit your Promise acceptance--check the **DEFER** box
Contact us when ready to use your funds*

Deadline: July 14th, 2023

*You **MUST** complete this step if you are not using your Promise funds right away and to remain eligible for the scholarship.*

Determination of Benefits

The Promise benefit will be based on the length of continuous attendance and residency within the Buchanan Public School system.

<u>Length of Attendance</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
K-12	100%
1-12	100%
2-12	90%
3-12	90%
4-12	90%
5-12	80%
6-12	80%
7-12	80%
8-12	70%
9-12	70%
10-12	None
11-12	None
12-12	None



Submitting the Promise Application

Information You'll Need

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Home Address
- Email Address
 - *Use your personal email, this is where your Promise communications will be sent!*
- Cell Phone Number
- Parent/Guardian Contact Info (email & cell phone)
- High School Student ID Number



Buchanan Promise Eligibility
Application



The Buchanan Promise Eligibility Application form is the first step towards meeting the first-dollar tuition scholarship eligibility. It is to be completed during your senior year of high school. It does NOT automatically mean you are eligible to participate, but it is the first step to determining if you are.

You will receive an email confirming your Promise Application was successfully submitted including a copy of your submission. Please keep a copy for your records.

Connecting with the Buchanan Promise

Both you and a parent (optional) will receive ALL communications to the email and phone number submitted on your Buchanan Promise Eligibility Application. This is the most critical way to stay on top of updates, deadlines, and unique opportunities throughout the year.

Your first message will introduce the Buchanan Promise team, followed by reminders of your next steps to meet the Buchanan Promise eligibility and changes to your Buchanan Promise status and additional scholarship opportunities. You (and your parent) can text back the number any time—we aim to respond within 24-72 hours! Texting us back is the best way to ensure we can answer your questions.

We will email you (and your parent) about specific college access or tips through our MGCF newsletter. We'll include tips and resources as you make your best-fit decision after graduation. Please include your full name and graduation year in correspondence so we can best address your concern. For general questions about the Buchanan Promise program, you can always visit our website at www.buchananpromise.com for the most thorough information or email us at info@buchananpromise.com.

Other ways your Buchanan Promise Officer can support you:

- Update your contact information
- Verify your Buchanan Promise status for eligibility
- Answer any questions you have about what the Buchanan Promise applies to
- Send you or assist you with resources to complete any step for the Buchanan Promise

Other resources for your support:

Your high school counselor/advisor is a great resource for support in options beyond high school