

NAICU Matrix of major “Free Public College” Legislation, 115th Congress

	America’s College Promise (ACP) (H. R. 6543, Rep. Bobby Scott; AIM HIGHER Dem alternative HEA; S. 2483, Sen. Baldwin companion bill with 13 Dem cosponsors)	Debt-Free College Act (S. 2598, Sen. Schatz; 9 Dem cosponsors)	Strengthening America’s Communities Act (S. 2984, Sen. Cardin)	College for All Act (S. 806, Sen. Sanders; 7 Dem cosponsors; H. R. 1880, Rep. Jayapal companion bill with 47 Dem cosponsors)
Federal-state partnership	Federal-state partnership grants to cover average resident community college tuition. Feds provide 75%; states provide 25% of funding. State can use need-based student aid to provide state share. Authorizes \$88 billion over 10 years	Federal grants to states to provide debt-free in-state public tuition. Distribution of grant aid goes first to Pell Grant recipients with unmet need, then to non-Pell Grant recipients with unmet need, based on need priority. Authorizes \$81 billion over 10 years	Same as America’s College Promise (ACP) Authorizes \$88 billion over 10 years	Grants to states to eliminate tuition and fees at community colleges for all; and at 4-year publics for working and middle class families. Feds provide 2/3 funding; states provide 1/3 funding. Authorizes \$41 billion for 1 year
Funding formula	Ratio between state FTE funding at public colleges and state average net price at four-year public colleges	Fed matches state net operating budget for higher education	Same as ACP	Based on state spending levels and FTEs at public 2 and 4 year colleges
Free tuition	Community colleges waive tuition and fees for eligible students	Grants for unmet need of Pell Grant recipients, then non-Pell low-income in order of need.	Same as ACP	Community college and 4-year public up to income of \$125,000
Use at 2 year or 4 year public colleges	Community college only	2 and 4-year AA or BA programs; no certificates.	Same as ACP	Community college and 4-year public
Cost of attendance	Waives tuition and fees only	Covers unmet need: COA minus EFC and federal, state, local grant aid. Does not count private aid or loans. Does not allow over-awards.	Same as ACP	Public 4-year colleges must cover unmet need with institutional aid and without loans for Pell Grant students.

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<p>State requirements</p>	<p>MOE for funding public colleges. MOE for student aid at public colleges.</p> <p>Application must describe promising and evidence-based institutional reforms to improve student outcomes to be adopted by all community colleges; promote alignment between public K12 and higher education to reduce remediation; ensure programs meet WIOA criteria.</p>	<p>MOE on net operating budget and state need-based aid. Net state operating funds do not protect student aid for students at private nonprofit colleges or state investments in private nonprofit colleges.</p> <p>States must develop statewide credit transfer policies.</p> <p>States must use 4% of grant to create college completion programs at each public college; distribution based on enrollment of Pell students.</p> <p>States submit a 5-year plan for Secretary’s approval.</p> <p>States will be evaluated on providing debt-free college; increasing state investment in higher ed; maintaining access to public colleges for low-income students; improving completion; reducing college costs; investing in improving capacity, access, quality and student achievement. States must report on degree</p>	<p>MOE protects state funding for public and private nonprofit colleges; and protects funding for student aid at public and private nonprofit colleges.</p> <p>Other provisions the same as ACP.</p>	<p>MOE on instructional and operating budget; need-based student aid for students at public colleges.</p>
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		attainment by race and Pell Grant status.		
Institutional requirements	Adopt education reform measures to ensure increased student outcomes and reduce remediation.	Maintain access and enrollment of low-income students. Institutions must report on degree attainment by race and Pell Grant status.	Same as ACP	Public colleges must maintain need-based student aid; fill unmet need for Pell Grant students without loans. Public colleges must reach 75% tenured faculty within 5 years of enactment.
Student requirements	Must enroll in academic programs that will transfer to BA programs or occupational skills programs in demand in the state; be eligible for resident tuition; attend not less than half-time; maintain SAP; have 3 years to use the program once started.	Must be eligible to enroll at in-state public college, complete the FAFSA and demonstrate SAP.	Same as ACP	
Cost containment		States must cap tuition and fees at enactment plus CPI; reduce tuition as net state support increases; develop, adopt and implement a state formula for in-state COA.		Public colleges must freeze tuition for non-low-income students. Public colleges cannot reduce enrollment or overcharge out of state students or non-eligible in-state students to make up the difference for providing “free.”
Program for HBCUs and MSIs	Grants to HBCUs and MSIs with at least 35% low-income enrollment. Grants are to encourage and incentivize community college students to transfer to these schools	5-year federal grants via the Partnership Office to HBCUs and MSIs with at least 35% low-income enrollment, and not previously been a for-profit institution. Grants are	Same as ACP	Grants to private nonprofit HBCUs and MSIs to reduce or eliminate tuition for low-income students.

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	<p>to complete a BA. Grant amounts up to the national average for tuition and fees at 4-year public colleges.</p> <p>Authorizes \$12 billion over 10 years</p> <p>Institutions must commit to educational reforms to improve completion rates and other student outcomes.</p> <p>Institutions must have articulation agreements to accept transfer credits from community colleges.</p>	<p>to provide debt-free unmet need to Pell eligible students.</p> <p>Authorizes \$3 billion.</p> <p>95% of the grant is for aid to students; 5% of the grant is for increasing capacity via construction or renovation; hiring faculty; providing student support programs.</p> <p>Institutions must cap tuition at the amount at enactment plus CPI; maintain expenditures on academic support; maintain enrollment of low-income students; maintain institutional aid; submit to the secretary for approval the institution’s calculation of the COA at the institution.</p>		<p>Authorizes \$1.34 billion for 1 year.</p> <p>Institutions must have at least 35% low-income enrollment. Private nonprofit colleges that converted from a for-profit college are not eligible to participate.</p> <p>Institutions must maintain funding for instruction; need-based financial aid; and institutional aid for all students. Institutions may not reduce enrollment.</p> <p>Institutions must increase instruction by tenured faculty.</p>
<p>Other provisions</p>		<p>Creates a Partnership Office at the Department of Education to run, evaluate and report on the program, including a public consumer-oriented website.</p> <p>States may use not more than 5% of grant funds to increase capacity of the public system by construction of new facilities; renovation of existing facilities; hiring of</p>	<p>National Public Service Education Grants: first dollar grants to eligible students (juniors) at 4-year public or 4-year private nonprofit institutions to help cover (not fully cover) COA for students who commit to working in public service for 3 years after completion. Remaining unmet need can be covered by other Title IV, state and institutional aid. Students can</p>	<p>Any remaining funds can be used to provide additional non-loan aid towards deferring COA; expand academic course offerings; increase FT faculty; provide faculty support, professional development, office space and shared governance; compensate part-time faculty for additional duties such as office hours; strengthen student support services;</p>

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		<p>faculty; increasing student support services; increasing enrollment of low-income students; improving student outcomes; develop programs to meet state workforce needs, and other activities.</p> <p>1% of grand for administration; higher education research and data tools to link education and employment data systems; agreements with other states for reciprocal student eligibility; early FAFSA eligibility.</p>	<p>decline work-study and take loans.</p> <p>Students must enroll fulltime; maintain a 3.0 GPA; serve 80 hours in a national service project; and complete BA in 2 years.</p> <p>If no BA in 2 years, grants become federal loans.</p> <p>Debt-free Public Service Loan Forgiveness: provides increased percentages of loan forgiveness for working between 2 and 10 years in public service.</p>	<p>expand dual enrollment or early college high school programs.</p> <p>Funds cannot be used for nonacademic construction; merit aid; athletics or capital projects.</p> <p>Also includes amendments to:</p> <p>Authorize Increased Funding for TRIO Programs</p> <p>Expand Federal Work Study</p> <p>Lower Student Loan Interest Rates</p>
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