

HEALTH REFORM



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More than 2,100 students sign up for Detroit College Promise

By [Sherri Welch](#)

More than 2,100 students at 14 **Detroit Public Schools** high schools have signed up for the **Detroit College Promise**.

Begun in August 2008 by Bingham Farms businessman Nat Pernick, the nonprofit, scholarship program for DPS students is modeled after the Kalamazoo Promise.

The Detroit College Promise scholarship is open to all students who live in Detroit and graduate from DPS, with no minimum academic requirements.

The program began providing scholarships of \$500 per year towards undergraduate tuition at Michigan public colleges and universities to students at Cody and Frederick Douglass high schools last year, along with scholarship certificates and other support services to freshman students to create early college awareness and keep them on a path to college.

Last August, Pernick hired a local fundraising consultant to help raise an estimated \$2 million to expand scholarships of \$500 to the graduates of all DPS high schools within three years.

As of May 10, 2,156 DPS high school students had registered for the scholarship program.

Pernick said in a statement that he expects more than 5,000 DPS high school students will register for the scholarship program before Dec. 1.

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