

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2009

Senate Votes for Help More Students Afford College ***Missouri Promise Program Means Scholarships for More MO Students***

JEFFERSON CITY – Thousands more Missouri high school students could soon be eligible for a state scholarship program to community colleges, vocational and technical schools because of a bill sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter. The Missouri Senate gave first-round approval Monday to [Senate Bill 558](#) that would create the Missouri Promise Program. The program seeks extend the current A+ Schools scholarship program to all eligible high school students and would no longer require program participation through an A+ designated high school. The proposed scholarship expansion would also provide funding for an additional two years for qualifying graduates who go onto a four-year public university.

“The Missouri Promise Program would make college more affordable for thousands more Missouri students, especially for many families who may have struggled to pay for college beyond a two-year degree,” Mayer said.

If approved, the proposed scholarship expansion would provide two years of free community college tuition to an estimated 17,500 Missouri students and additional free tuition for as many as 6,560 students at public four-year universities who meet the requirements.

Under the proposed program, scholarship requirements would include attendance at a Missouri public high school for at least three years prior to graduation, a good faith effort to secure other sources of funding, a 2.5 grade point average, full-time enrollment at a public community college or public or private vocational or technical school, and maintaining a 2.5 grade point average while receiving the scholarship. Students vying for a scholarship beyond a two-year degree would be required to have a 3.0 grade point average and all scholarships recipients must avoid discipline issues to maintain the award.

Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, said the Missouri Promise Program is a step toward making Missouri a top education state in the year 2020.

“At the beginning of this session, I challenged senators to look ahead and think outside the box to find ways we can improve the daily lives-including education, healthcare and income, for the people of Missouri,” he said. “By awarding scholarships to students with good grades, who are good citizens, we can increase the number of students with a past high school education experience that can help give them a leg up in life, while making Missouri a place where companies locate because of our educated workforce.”

The bill needs a second vote of approval before moving to the House for similar consideration. To track the bill, visit www.senate.mo.gov - "keyword" search for SB558.

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