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www.promisewi.com

Wisconsin Promise

Wisconsin is one of six sites participating in the US Department of Education's demonstration of a promising path to success for youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). **Wisconsin Promise will help youth and their families meet their school and work goals in order to better their income and financial stability reducing poverty.**

Wisconsin Promise will enroll 2,000 youth (between the ages of 14-16) receiving SSI and their families. Families who participate in the study will receive \$30 in gift cards. A computer program will assign participants to one of two groups based on chance, like a lottery. Half of the youth will be assigned to the Promise Services Group and the other half will continue to receive Services as Usual.

Eligible youth and families will receive letters notifying of grant eligibility and enrollment information. Wisconsin Promise Intake Coordinators (PICs) located around the state will be available to assist youth and families with the enrollment process.

The **PROMISE** initiative is intended to improve services for youth SSI recipients and their families. Services provided through Promise can help youth participants achieve better education and career outcomes, including:

- graduating from high school college and career ready
- completing postsecondary education and job training, and
- obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting.

As a result, youth participants can achieve their goals and move toward a stronger financial future.

Enrollment

Youth age 14 to 16 who are SSI recipients are encouraged to participate.

Youth and their parents or guardians may complete the enrollment materials at home by downloading them from the Wisconsin Promise website or in person at a Promise office or community event.

Online Enrollment Materials: www.promisewi.com/enroll

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the enrollment materials, contact us:

1•855•480•5618 toll-free phone | promise-grant@cesa12.org email

Working with Schools

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is a Promise partner with the Wisconsin Departments of Workforce Development (DWD), Children and Families (DCF), and Health Services (DHS); each agency participates in Promise activities. Each youth enrolled in Promise has a specialized DVR Counselor who provides case management to the youth and family.

Schools are encouraged to include the Promise DVR Counselor in school meetings related to the youth's educational goals and career planning (e.g., IEP, 504 plan, and behavioral supports). Promise services provided to students may include, but are not limited to, work incentives benefits counseling, financial coaching, social skills and self-advocacy training, assistance with pre- and post- education goal achievement, career exploration, and finding paid integrated work experiences. Schools may consider using some grant components (e.g., self-advocacy and soft-skill training) for school credit. Promise DVR Counselors may request to meet with students during the school day to fulfill activities that relate to student IEP/IPE goals.

It is important to note that schools will not be notified if a student meets eligibility criteria for participation in Promise, enrolls in Promise, or the student's assigned group status. However, if a student is assigned to the 'program group,' the student and family will be encouraged to notify the school of their assigned status. A parent or guardian will be required to sign a written release of information for both DVR and the school, to ensure school staff are able to collaborate with the student's Promise support team. We encourage teachers and other appropriate school staff to participate in their student's Promise support team meetings, when possible.

Services provided through Promise can help participating youth achieve better educational and career outcomes that lead to lifelong wage earners, less reliance on public benefits, increased household income including family members, and higher education attainment for youth and family. As a result, youth participants can achieve their goals and move toward a stronger financial future.

Our DPI Special Education Team strongly supports the work of the Promise project. Again, we hope you will assist us in recruiting eligible students to participate. General information can be found at www.promisewi.com.

For questions related to school district involvement with Promise, please feel free to contact:

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Enrollment is now open. Find out more at www.promisewi.com