

Red Wing College Promise FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated as of 8/13/2026

About the program

What is The Red Wing College Promise?

Funded by the [Jones Family Foundation](#), the Red Wing College Promise ensures that every eligible student graduating from a Red Wing public high school beginning in 2023 will have access to a college education at Minnesota State College Southeast (Southeast) by covering the cost of tuition and fees, and providing a stipend for books, supplies and tools.

Who qualifies for The Red Wing College Promise?

Students who are a Red Wing school district resident with a Red Wing school district address on the high school transcript and a 2024 (or later) graduate of a Red Wing public high school with a diploma indicating Red Wing Public Schools

- Red Wing High School
 - Tower View Alternative High School
 - 5RiversOnline
 - River Bluff Education Center
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- Students who identify as either first generation to attend college, low-income, or as a member of a historically underserved racial/ethnic group are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students with a minimum high school GPA of 2.0 in their junior and senior years

- Southeast recognizes that various circumstances affect a student's GPA. Therefore, students without a high school GPA of 2.0 in their junior and senior years can qualify for the Red Wing College Promise by working with the Red Wing College Promise Navigator to develop a plan to be academically successful while attending Southeast. To start the process, please send an email to redwingpromise@southeastmn.edu.

How much money is the Red Wing College Promise worth to a student?

The Red Wing College Promise will cover up to 70 credits. Given [current tuition rates](#), that's more than \$15,000!

Are the funds limited to a certain number of Red Wing students?

No, there is no limit to the number of students who can benefit.

Do I get the funds automatically, or do I have to apply?

You need to complete an admissions application to Southeast, apply for financial aid (FAFSA or Dream Act), fill out an [online interest form](#) for the Red Wing College Promise, and complete a Southeast Foundation College Promise scholarship application. See "About the Application Process" below. There are no fees associated with these applications.

Questions about eligibility

How do you confirm my high school GPA?

All students need to send their official high school transcript to Southeast.

Do I have to live in the Red Wing public school district to be eligible?

Yes, you must reside within the Red Wing public school district boundaries as evidenced by the address on your high school transcript. ([View Map](#))

- Students who live in neighboring school districts are not eligible.
- Open-enrollment (students who live outside of the district but opt in to attend high school in Red Wing) are not eligible.
- Online students (5RiversOnline) who do not live in the Red Wing public school district are not eligible.

Are home schooled students eligible?

No, you must be a graduate of a Red Wing public high school.

Are students who attended a Red Wing high school but *transfer away from the school district before graduating* eligible for the Red Wing College Promise?

No, only students graduating from a Red Wing public high school are eligible.

Are students who *transfer into the Red Wing school district before high school graduation* eligible?

Yes, students who graduate from a Red Wing high school and live in the Red Wing Public School District are eligible.

Are students who get a GED or Adult Diploma eligible?

No, students who live in the Red Wing Public School district but choose to get a GED or Adult Diploma are not eligible.

Are visiting/guest students eligible?

No, guest or visiting students are not eligible. Southeast must be the FAFSA home campus, and students must be pursuing an undergraduate certificate, diploma, or degree from Southeast.

How the Red Wing College Promise Works

How will this program work with other college financial aid?

The Red Wing College Promise is a "last dollar" scholarship. That means you must apply for financial aid (through the FAFSA or Dream Act) and institutional aid (Southeast Foundation scholarships). After all scholarships and federal/state grants (grants are money that you do not have to pay back) are applied, the College Promise will cover the remaining cost of your tuition and fees.

What if I don't qualify for any federal or state grants?

Eligible students can receive up to 100% of their tuition and fees from the Red Wing College Promise program.

Am I required to apply for any additional grants, scholarships, or loans if I am in this program?

The Red Wing College Promise will cover the cost of tuition and fees after all scholarships and federal/state grants are applied. However, if desired, you may apply for loans that cover costs not associated with tuition and fees.

Can I attend any Southeast campus for any degree, diploma, or certificate?

Yes, you can enroll in any of the certificate, diploma, or degree programs offered by the college in Red Wing, Winona, and online. For a list of programs, see www.southeastmn.edu/academics.

Does the program cover books and tools?

The program provides \$500 per year towards the cost of books, tools, supplies and materials - up to \$1000 per student.

Is there an application fee or deposit requirement for the college?

There is no application fee or deposit fee required to secure enrollment.

How long do I have to use the Red Wing College Promise benefit?

You are eligible for the Red Wing College Promise as soon as you graduate from high school and for three consecutive years after. That means you can begin college at Southeast starting in Fall after you graduate or after that time, but your access to the program ends after spring term of the 3rd year after your high school graduation. For the Class of 2027, the program is available until Spring Semester of 2030.

Can I attend Minnesota State College Southeast part-time?

Yes, you can attend part-time. However, the benefit is only available for three years after you graduate from high school, so you will want to plan your education pathway accordingly.

Can I lose my funding once I have started at Southeast?

If a student fails to make sufficient progress toward a degree or certificate or does not meet academic progress requirements, funding would be placed in suspension and the student would not receive funding for the next semester. The program would be reinstated if the student demonstrates sufficient progress the following semester. For more detailed information, see: [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#)

About the Red Wing College Promise application process

What is the application process?

1. [Apply for undergraduate admission](#) to Minnesota State College Southeast.
2. Apply for financial aid by completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [Dream Act application](#).
3. Fill out the [online interest form](#) for the Red Wing College Promise.
4. Complete the Southeast Foundation [scholarship application](#).

When does the application open? Is there a deadline for applying?

A short online sign-up form for the Red Wing College Promise is available now. Students must apply to Southeast as an undergraduate student, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and submit the Southeast Foundation scholarship application prior to the start of class for each year.

What can I do now, prior to applying for the Red Wing College Promise?

Visit the college, meet with an [admissions representative](#), and explore college programs to find a program that interests you! Programs are listed at southeastmn.edu/academics.

If I don't qualify for the Red Wing College Promise, is there an appeal process for me to go through?

PSEO and undergraduate students can be suspended for failing to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), which is based on college grade point average *and* percentage of college credits completed. If a student is suspended from Southeast, they cannot participate in the Red Wing College Promise until their suspension is completed. However, a student may appeal the suspension. To appeal a suspension, students should watch their Southeast email and US Postal mail for instructions on the appeals process. Please contact the Red Wing College Promise Navigator at redwingpromise@southeastmn.edu with questions about the process.

Who can I talk to for more information?

- **For general inquiries:** For questions about participating in the Red Wing College Promise, contact Diane Jacobson, Red Wing College Promise Navigator at redwingpromise@southeastmn.edu.
- **Media:** For media inquiries, contact John Kowalewski, Executive Director of Communications and External Relations, Minnesota State College Southeast, at 651-385-6364 or john.kowalewski@southeastmn.edu.