

The Kalamazoo Promise[®]



ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION WEBINAR

May 14, 2015

Bob Jorth, Executive Director, The Kalamazoo Promise

ITS UNIVERSAL, SIMPLE & GENEROUS ELIGIBILITY RULES

You must graduate from Kalamazoo Public Schools.

You must be a resident within the boundaries of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

You must have all of high school in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

WHY / HOW THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE?

- Anonymous Donors
- Belief that Education is Key to a Dynamic Community
 - Economically
 - Socially
- Established and Funded into Perpetuity
- Announced November 2005 for High School Class of 2006

WHAT IS THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE?

- Scholarship Only (but Extremely Generous)
- Fixed % for duration of Award (65% to 100%)
- Tuition and Mandatory Fees
- 10 Years, 130 Credit Hours or Bachelor Degree (whichever occurs first)
- Use at 58 Colleges or Universities in Michigan
- Pursue any Post Secondary Credential at Qualifying Institutions (Certificate, Associate, Bachelor)

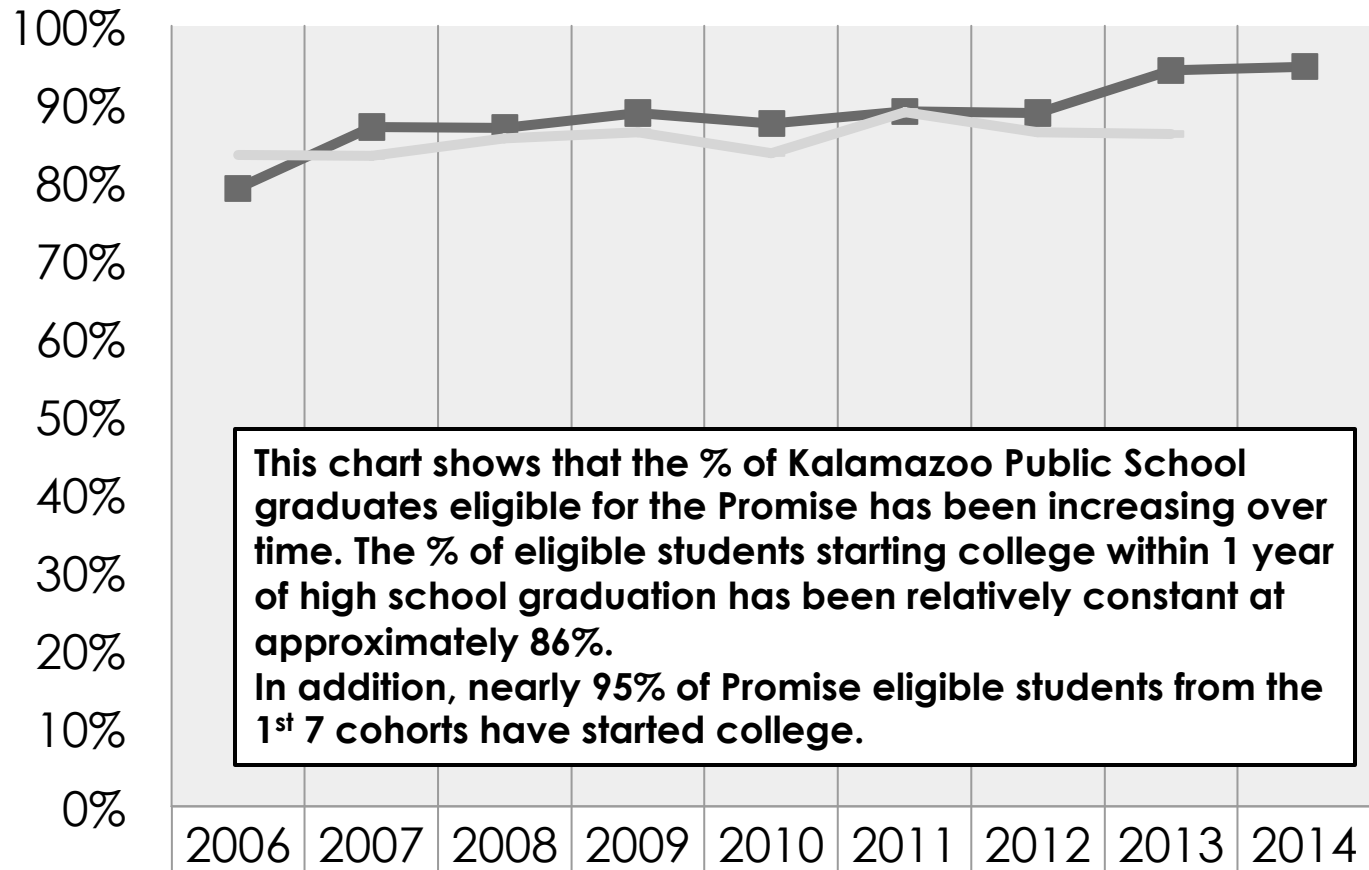
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 12,500 Students
- Majority Minority District –
 - ~50% Black, 8% Hispanic, 40% White
- 70% Free or Reduced Lunch
- Three High Schools
 - 2 Main Stream & 1 Alternative
- 24% Enrollment Increase Since Promise Announced

FAST FACTS

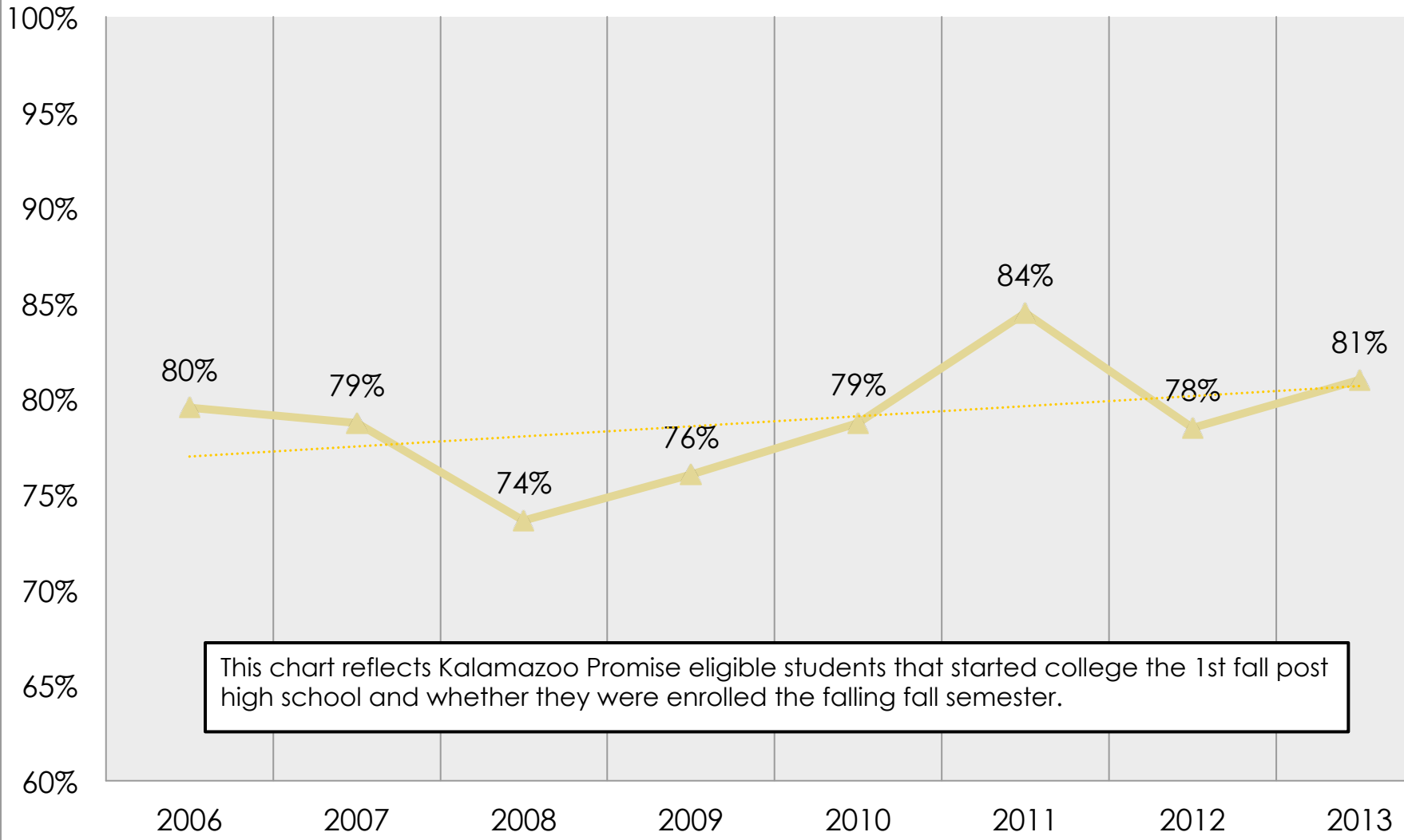
- Over 3800 students have utilized their Promise
- More than \$66,000,000 awarded thru April 2015
- 95% of all Kalamazoo Public School 2014 graduates were eligible for awards
- Eligibility and college start is nearly universal and therefore uniform across all demographic groups
- Retention and completion shows a significant divide along ethnic and economic groups – students of color ½ as likely to complete as white students

THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE IS GETTING STUDENTS TO COLLEGE!



■ % Eligible	79%	87%	87%	89%	88%	89%	89%	94%	95%
— % Eligible Started w/in 12 months	83%	83%	86%	86%	84%	89%	86%	86%	

KALAMAZOO PROMISE 1ST YEAR RETENTION BY COHORT



Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) is one of our primary partners

- Over 50% of all Promise Scholars will take classes at KVCC
- KVCC Implemented a Student Success Center – **available to ALL KVCC students**
- KVCC and The Promise use data to evaluate progress and inform improvements
- The Promise modified requirements to permit part time status
- Currently Implementing mandatory support services for Promise students
 - New and academically underperforming
- Significant improvements in academic performance
 - Improved average GPA - .50 increase
 - More classes successfully completed – 50% reduction in zero credits earned classes
 - Better performance in developmental classes

AVERAGE GPA 1ST FALL POST HIGH SCHOOL

