

# Comparison Chart: Free College Bills (117th Congress)

Bill Name	America's College Promise Act	Debt-Free College Act	College for All Act
<b>Sponsors</b>	Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI)	Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)	Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
<b>Major Policy Goals</b>	Enable all students to earn a two-year degree at a public college without paying tuition or fees; enable eligible students (based on financial need) to attend a four-year HBCU or MSI without paying tuition or fees for the first two years	Enable all students to earn up to a four-year degree at a public college (or private nonprofit HBCU or MSI) without taking on debt; generally incentivize increased state support for public higher education	Enable all students to earn a two-year degree at a public college without paying tuition or fees; enable students from families earning <\$125k to earn a four-year degree at a public college or nonprofit private HBCU or MSI without paying tuition or fees; double the maximum Pell Grant; cover full cost of attendance for low-income students
<b>Mechanism to Achieve Affordability Guarantee</b>	Creates a new 3:1 federal-state funding partnership to enable participating states to waive tuition & fee costs for all eligible students at two-year public institutions (community colleges); funds grant program to enable HBCUs & other MSIs to cover the first two years of tuition and fees for low-income students	Creates new federal-state funding partnership where states receive 1:1 match for state funding for public colleges; in return, states must enable eligible students to cover their full cost of attendance at all public colleges without taking on debt; funds federal grants to eligible HBCUs & MSIs to enable them to provide need-based financial aid to cover unmet need for enrolled students	Creates a new 3:1 federal-state funding partnership to enable participating states to waive tuition & fee costs for all eligible students at two- and four-year public institutions; creates separate grant program to cover private, nonprofit HBCUs & MSIs
<b>Maintainance of Effort</b>	States must at least maintain the following funding levels (based on average support over the three prior years): funding per-FTE student; funding for operational expenses (excluding capital expenses and research and development costs) for public four-year IHEs; and funding for need-based financial aid	State must at least maintain net state operating support at a level equal to the average of the three previous years	Public IHEs must maintain funding for instruction per-FTE student at 2019-20 award year levels; states must maintain per-FTE funding for public IHEs at 2019-20 award year levels; states must maintain state spending on need-based financial aid programs for enrollment in public IHEs at 2019-20 award year levels; states must maintain funding for institutional need-based student financial aid at 2019-20 award year levels
<b>Recession Protection</b>	Re-calibrates the amount that a state must spend to retain its federal match during certain economic conditions (as determined by state & national unemployment rates) so that the federal government provides a higher share (which increases based on the severity of economic conditions) during the relief period	None	Re-calibrates the amount that a state must spend to retain its federal match during certain economic conditions (as determined by national prime-age employment to-population ratio (PAEPOP) rates & unemployment rates) so that the federal government provides a higher share (which increases based on the severity of economic conditions) during the relief period

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Pell Grant Funding	None	None	Doubles the maximum Pell Grant award from \$6,495 to \$12,990 starting in the 2021-2022 school year (excludes for-profit institutions from this funding increase); expands Pell eligibility to DREAMer students; automatically increases Pell Grants in future years by inflation; increases lifetime award eligibility from 6 years to 7.5 years; exempts Pell Grants from taxable income; shifts Pell program to fully mandatory funding (currently funded by combination of mandatory & discretionary funds)
Student Success Funding	\$1 billion annual formula grant for states to implement promising and evidence-based institutional reforms and innovative practices to improve student outcomes; state match scales up over time from 25% (first four years) to 100% starting in year nine (Education Secretary may waive or modify matching requirements for Indian Tribes); state applications must provide equity-informed analysis including data on per-student funding, student demographics, transfer and completion rates, and funding disparities across institutions	States must use 4 percent of federal grant funds to establish or increase funding for college completion programs	Establishes a \$10 billion grant to address equity gaps at under-funded public IHEs and private, nonprofit HBCUs & MSIs; IHEs must use funds to invest in reforming remedial education, academic advisors, mental health counselors, and tutors, and to reduce class sizes; triples federal TRIO funding and doubles federal GEAR UP funding
Additional Items of Note	Students do not need to be Title IV eligible to access benefit	Expands Title IV eligibility to DREAMer students; creates new Partnership Office at ED to administer & oversee new programs	Public IHEs must prioritize hiring from the existing adjunct, contract, contingent, and non-tenure track or tenured faculty pool for tenure-track or tenured faculty positions