



2019 Missouri Policy Positions

As Missouri prioritizes Talent for Tomorrow, St. Louis Graduates, in alignment with the student-led Active Advocacy Coalition and The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, supports policies and budget priorities that ensure equity in who benefits from Missouri's investment in its workforce.

Increased Funding for Access Missouri - As the state's need-based scholarship program, Access Missouri provides critical funding to students from low-income families. Due to increases in student eligibility coupled with static funding, award amounts average \$1,500 to \$1,850, significantly below the statute maximum of \$2,850. Funding of this essential scholarship program should be increased to ensure students with the greatest financial need have the maximum eligible support in affording postsecondary education.

Making A+ a First-Dollar Scholarship Program – All students who have earned the A+ Scholarship through academic and personal achievement in high school should have the benefit of using their A+ Scholarship. Presently, students attending two-year institutions who are Pell-eligible are required to spend their Pell dollars first, meaning they never use the A+ Scholarship for which they have worked so hard. Making A+ a first-dollar scholarship will enable the state's lowest income students to receive the "free community college" benefit afforded to A+ eligible students with higher family incomes, enabling them to use their Pell grant to continue their studies beyond the term of the A+ scholarship, including in pursuit of a four-year degree.

Tuition Equity for Undocumented Students – Students who grow up in Missouri and graduate from Missouri high schools with the intent to enroll in Missouri postsecondary institutions should be able to do so without being penalized if they are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). For the past four years, language has been written into the preamble of the higher education budget requiring the state's higher education institutions charge these students at out-of-state or international tuition rates. Students with DACA status should be able to pay the same in-state tuition rate as their fellow high school graduates.

For more information, contact:

Laura Winter

Project Director, St. Louis Graduates

(314) 880-4952

laura@stlouisgraduates.org