

The Muskegon Opportunity Broad-Based Student Preparation Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the Muskegon Opportunity Broad-Based Student Preparation Program is to better prepare all students, academically and financially, for success in post-secondary education or formal training, taking advantage of all applicable grants and scholarships, including, if needed, the Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship. The program will ensure that:

- Students are academically prepared for post-secondary education, training and careers, focusing on those careers most needed in a knowledge economy.
- Students, their parent/guardians, and the larger community will understand the value of a rigorous high school education and invest themselves in it.
- Students and their parents/guardians will successfully navigate the world of post-secondary program selection, application, financial aid and scholarships.
- Students and their parents/guardians will build post-secondary program access and persistence skills.
- Communities and schools will increase their capacity to help students/families to be successful in their quest for their choice of post-secondary education program.
- This broad-based effort will greatly enhance the culture of learning and the economic revitalization of the Muskegon County area.

Featured strategies will be:

- Student monitoring, support, and advocacy
- Community building and positive peer pressure
- An ongoing public campaign involving multiple media and events
- Visits to institutions of higher education and institutions or corporations offering formal training programs.
- Career exploration
- Post-Secondary program selection education
- Financial aid seminars and activities
- Scholarship education activities
- “College” Success training for students and parents/guardians
- Training for educators and key community members
- Building a knowledgeable network of schools and multiple community partners whose mission is to improve the culture of learning inclusive of all Muskegon County area students.

The Muskegon Opportunity Broad-Based Preparation Program will not guarantee particular scholarships to students for post-secondary education or formal training, rather it will prepare students and families to take advantage of available grants and scholarships; to learn to navigate the way to post-secondary education; to build necessary academic skills and habits of mind to be successful and persist in post-secondary education or training; and to contribute to the enhanced culture of learning in the Muskegon County area. Broad-based preparation will begin for students halfway through their seventh grade year.

PROGRAM STAFFING AND RESOURCES

One Program Coordinator and one Administrative Assistant, who will also administer Muskegon Opportunity Safety-Net Scholarship,

Lead Agency/Employer/Oversight:

A school district, intermediate school district, institution of higher education, corporation or non-profit agency could serve as fiscal agent and employ the staff; that entity logically would provide office space. The Muskegon Opportunity Advisory Committee will oversee. Or, the Muskegon Opportunity may incorporate a non-profit entity that could be the Lead Agency/Employer.

District Liaisons:

Through Memos of Understanding, each school district shall name a liaison to the Muskegon Opportunity Broad-Based Preparation Program. This Liaison shall be the internal district point or “go to” person for all activities, connecting with program staff.

Partner Liaisons:

Each key partner shall name a liaison to the Muskegon Opportunity Broad-Based Preparation Program. This Liaison shall be the partner’s internal point person for all Muskegon Opportunity activities, connecting with program staff.

PROGRAM OF BROAD-BASED PREPARATION

Grade	Activity	Rationale	Agencies
7	MO Kick-Off Event to coincide with students initiating EDP's as required by Michigan law in grade 7. Event will present MO to students/parents and could include a video or video conferencing for efficiency.	Clear explanation of MO goals helpful. Begin to visualize aspirations. Begin to build community	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners
	Review and discussion of initial Educational Development Plans (EDP's) with students and families.	Connect middle and high school success to future careers. Focus students on future success.	District staff.
	Ascertain TIP eligibility and activate TIP enrollment. Begin to build funds for post secondary education.	Begin to visualize how aspirations for post secondary education will be funded.	District liaisons, district counselors, MO Coordination staff.
	Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners
8	To reinforce the need for rigorous courses in high school that lead to post secondary success, support schools in having Michigan Scholars presentations or a similar Reality Store activity to relate learning to earning.	Understand how high school career effects post secondary education and life career	Chambers of Commerce, MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, MAISD and CTC staff.
	As students complete their EDP's, schedule their high school courses, and students and parents attend transition activities in the various high schools, review MO goals and offerings.	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District staff, MO Coordination staff, "speakers" bureau from partners, district liaisons
	Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners

9	<p>General Mentoring and Advocacy: monitor and support attendance, behavior, grades, course enrollment (ongoing as part of districts' freshman support programming)</p> <p>Districts may obtain mentoring help for most struggling students not in the MO Intensive Support Program</p>	Maintain students in position to succeed, post-secondary preparation	<p>Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.</p> <p>District liaisons, MO Coordination staff.</p>
	<p>College Visits: students/families to attend family night at three partner institutions (MCC, Baker, GVSU). Begin visits to other institutions offering formal training.</p>	Begin to visualize self in post-secondary education, college, formal training; begin to investigate program of choice	Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, other partners
	<p>Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education or formal training for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.</p>	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners
10	<p>General Mentoring and Advocacy: monitor and support attendance, behavior, grades, course enrollment (ongoing as part of districts' support programming).</p> <p>Districts may obtain mentoring help for most struggling students not in the MO Intensive Support Program.</p>	Maintain students in position to succeed, post-secondary preparation	<p>Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.</p> <p>District liaisons, MO Coordination staff.</p>
	<p>College Visits: students on campus including summer, include discussions with college students, etc. Visits to other institutions offering formal training.</p>	Visualize self in post-secondary education, college, formal training; begin to investigate program of choice	Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff
	<p>Another point to ascertain TIP eligibility and activate TIP enrollment. Discuss PELL, ACG's and Smart Grants. Begin to build funds for post secondary education.</p>	Begin to visualize how aspirations for post secondary education will be funded.	District liaisons, district counselors, MO Coordination staff.

	Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners
11	General Mentoring and Advocacy is ramped up to help students and families navigate into post-secondary education: program selection, financial aid, scholarships, MME/ACT test preparation support, application, etc. Districts may receive additional support for this if they have large numbers of “first in” students	Begin to investigate specific requirements for program entrance and funding. Understand academic preparation requirements.	MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, Higher Ed. partners, Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.
	College Visits: students on campus including summer, include discussions with college students, etc. Visits to other institutions offering formal training.	Visualize self in post-secondary education, college, formal training; begin to investigate program of choice	Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff
	Scholarship Fest: learning about how scholarships and financial aid work for students and families. Schools can do their own version or partner with other schools, obtaining assistance from MO Coordination staff.	Getting the jump on specific information on scholarships, grants, financial aid, and post secondary applications	Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff, district liaisons
	Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.	Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career	District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners

12	<p>General Mentoring and Advocacy is ramped up to help students and families navigate into post secondary education: college selection, program selection, financial aid, scholarships, MME/ACT test preparation support, college application, etc.</p> <p>Districts may receive additional support for this if they have large numbers of “first in” students</p>	<p>Complete investigation of specific requirements for program entrance and funding. Complete or continue working on academic preparation requirements.</p>	<p>MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, Higher Ed. partners, Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.</p>
	<p>College Visits: students on campus including summer, include discussions with college students, etc. Visits to institutions with formal training programs.</p>	<p>Visualize self in post-secondary education, college, formal training; prepare program of choice</p>	<p>Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff</p>
	<p>District prepares students/families for scholarships and financial aid utilizing school practices and Higher education partners. Include College Goal Sunday. Complete FAFSA. Districts can obtain extra help through a cadre of trained volunteers.</p>	<p>Specific information on scholarships, grants, financial aid, and applications. Time to work individually with families.</p>	<p>Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, trained volunteers from other community sectors</p>
	<p>Persistence Seminars: concrete, active role-playing seminars on how to “live through” post secondary. How to make decisions, find resources, advocate for self, maintain scholarships, maintain good grades, study, etc. How to support your student, keep him or her in school, develop self-motivation and advocacy for parent/guardians.</p>	<p>Enrolling in post secondary is the first step. Staying there to degree/certificate completion is difficult. Michigan’s post secondary persistence rate is not the best.</p>	<p>Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff, district liaisons, trained volunteers from other community sectors, parent-to-parent volunteers, and student role models.</p>
	<p>Annual media blitz campaign of local print, radio, and TV media, and in announcements in schools, on the need for post secondary education for future individual and community success. Feature successful graduates.</p>	<p>Understand how school career effects post secondary education and life career</p>	<p>District liaisons, MO Coordination staff, Partner liaisons, partners</p>
Post Sec.	<p>Higher ed. partners to establish or expand support liaisons, support groups, and help centers</p>	<p>Increase local persistence rate</p>	<p>Higher Ed. partners, MO Coordination staff.</p>

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program staff will present program evaluation data on an annual basis to the Muskegon Opportunity Advisory Committee. The data will include:

- Percent of increase in graduation rates in MAISD high schools.
- Percent of increase of students enrolling in post secondary education.
- Persistence rate at three partner institutions.
- Numbers of students and parents/guardians participating in Muskegon Opportunity activities, anecdotal and survey information.

The Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Program is to help identified underserved seventh grade students at risk of not successfully graduating from high school nor completing a post-secondary or formal training program, to do so, taking advantage of all applicable grants and scholarships, including the Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship. The program will ensure that:

- Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students are academically prepared for post-secondary education or formal training and careers, focusing on those careers most needed in a knowledge economy.
- Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students and their parent/guardians will understand the value of a rigorous high school education and invest themselves in it.
- Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students will envision themselves enrolling in and having success in post-secondary education or formal training, even though the family has no experience in that regard.
- Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students and their parents/guardians will navigate the world of post-secondary, college or training program selection, application, financial aid and scholarships.
- Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students and their parents/guardians will build post secondary access and persistence skills.
- All schools with Intensive Support Students will gain understanding of how to help the most underserved students/families to be successful in their quest for post-secondary education.
- Even the most underserved students/families are contributors to a culture of learning in the Muskegon County area.

Featured Muskegon Opportunity Strategies will be:

- Student monitoring, support, and advocacy
- Michigan Scholars programming
- Mentoring
- Community building and positive peer pressure
- Visits to institutions of higher education and other institutions or corporations offering formal training.
- Job Shadowing
- Post secondary Program selection education
- Financial aid seminars and activities
- Scholarship education activities
- Parent/guardian employability assessment and access to training

- “College” Success training for students
- “College” Success training for parents, including parent-to-parent mentoring
- On campus support
- Building a knowledgeable network of schools and multiple partners whose mission is to improve the culture of learning inclusive of all Muskegon Area Intermediate School District boundary students.

The Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Program will not guarantee particular scholarships to students for post-secondary education or formal training, rather it will prepare students and families to take advantage of available grants and scholarships; to learn to navigate the way to post-secondary education programs; to build necessary academic skills and habits of mind to be successful and persist in post-secondary education; and to contribute to the enhanced culture of learning in the Muskegon County area.

TARGET AUDIENCE OF STUDENTS

Sixty (60) students who are at risk of not graduating high school and proceeding into post-secondary education after high school will be identified for service each year, beginning when they are in the seventh grade. They will be served up through high school graduation and into post-secondary education, where they will be supported as well in three partner institutions: MCC, Baker, and GVSU. The maximum number of students in the program grades 7-12 after identifying students for six years will be 360. From that time forward, when a group of 60 Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students graduate from high school, they will be “replaced” by 60 new 7th grade Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Students.

Guidelines or Preferences for Intensive Support Student Identification:

- Students who would be first in their family to attend post-secondary education.
- Students whose parents/significant adults did not graduate from high school.
- Students in households living below the census poverty line.
- Students who are eligible for free lunch.
- Students from single-parent homes.
- Students being raised by a grandparent or other extended family member.
- Students being raised by a guardian or who are in foster care.
- Students who are generally overlooked and, in a sense, invisible.
- Students with energy that must be channeled in a positive direction.
- Students for which there is evidence they could perform academically at better than a C average.
- Students who obtain a letter of recommendation from a school staff member and a letter of recommendation from an adult outside of school.

APPORTIONMENT OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

School counselors and principals will recommend students annually, based on the criteria above, to the Muskegon Opportunity Advisory Committee, which will have oversight. Schools will be designated a number of annual “slots” for students based on a formula that takes into consideration the ratio of 7th graders in each school to the total number in the MAISD, increased or decreased by a number corresponding to the school’s percent of free/reduced lunch students: -2 up to 30%, -1 up to 49%, + 1 up to 60%, + 2 up to 80%, +3 for 81% or above. In no case will a school have no students identified in any year. A Selection Committee that will be a sub committee of the Muskegon Opportunity Advisory Committee shall select students annually.

PROGRAM STAFFING AND RESOURCES

Staff Costs:

Year One—Program Coordinator: Salary-Benefit Package Range--\$41,000 salary, \$27,000 benefits, \$68,000 Program Total

Year Two—Add one Student Support Specialist: Salary-Benefit Package Range--\$36,640 salary, \$23,400 benefits, \$60,049 total Program Total \$128,049

Year Three—Add second Student Support Specialist: Salary-Benefit Package Range--\$36,640, Program Total \$188,098.

Year Four—Add Americorp Member: \$8,000 stipend match. Program Total \$196,098

Total Staff Costs at Program Maximum Range--\$196,098

Other Financial Resources:

Annual office supplies needed: \$8,000

Annual transportation needed for staff and students: \$10,000

Total Program Costs at Program Maximum: \$214,098

Staff Roles:

The role of the Program Coordinator would be to orchestrate all aspects of the program, including coordinating activities and strategies with all partners to ensure all students are served according to their needs.

The role of the Student Support Specialist would be to assist and educate the Intensive Support Students and their families to prepare students and families to take advantage of available grants and scholarships; to learn to navigate the way to post-secondary education; and to build necessary academic skills and habits of mind to be successful and persist in post-secondary education.

The role of the Americorp Member would be to support the Program Coordinator and the Student Support Specialists.

Lead Agency/Employer/Oversight:

A school district, intermediate school district, institution of higher education, corporation or non-profit agency will serve as fiscal agent and employ the staff; that entity logically would provide office space. The Muskegon Opportunity Board will oversee. Or, the Muskegon Opportunity may incorporate a non-profit entity that could be the Lead Agency/Employer.

District Liaisons:

Within a Memo of Understanding, each school district shall name a liaison to the Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Program. This Liaison shall be the internal district point or “go to” person for all Intensive Support activities, connecting with program staff.

Partner Liaisons:

Each key partner shall name a liaison to the Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support Program. This Liaison shall be the partner’s internal point person for all Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support activities, connecting with program staff.

PROGRAM OF INTENSIVE SUPPORT

Grade	Activity	Rationale	Agencies
7	Identification and orientation to the program for MO ISP students and families. Have kick-off event for student cohort: picnic, etc.	Clear explanation of services helpful. Begin to visualize aspirations. Begin to build community	District liaisons, MO ISP staff, Partner liaisons
	Review and discussion of initial Educational Development Plans (EDP’s) with MO ISP students and families.	Connect middle and high school success to future careers. Focus students on future success.	District liaisons, MO ISP staff, Partner liaisons
	Ascertain TIP eligibility and activate TIP enrollment. Begin to build funds for post secondary education.	Begin to visualize how aspirations for post secondary education will be funded.	District liaisons, district counselors, MO ISP staff, Partner liaisons
8	General Mentoring and Advocacy: monitor and support attendance, behavior, grades, course enrollment (ongoing)	Maintain students in position to succeed, post-secondary or formal training preparation	Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.

	Michigan Scholars presentations to students and families; enrollment in rigorous course of study in high school.	Understand how high school career effects post secondary education and life career	Chambers of Commerce, MO ISP staff, district liaisons
9	General Mentoring and Advocacy: monitor and support attendance, behavior, grades, course enrollment (ongoing) Mentors will discuss completed EDPs and careers with MO Intensive Support students	Maintain students in position to succeed, post-secondary preparation	Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.
	College Visits: all students/families to attend family night at three partner institutions (MCC, Baker, GVSU). Visits to other institutions providing formal training programs.	Begin to visualize self in post secondary education, college or formal training program; begin to investigate program of choice	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff, mentors. Other partners
10	General Mentoring and Advocacy: monitor and support attendance, behavior, grades, course enrollment (ongoing). Use the WhyTry? Program Mentors will continue to discuss careers with MO Intensive Support Students, including possible job shadowing.	Maintain students in position to succeed, post-secondary program preparation Begin to link high school to post secondary to careers	Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.
	College Visits: students on campus for half day to a day, including summer, include discussions with college students, etc. Visits to other institutions providing formal training programs	Visualize self in post-secondary education, college, formal training; prepare program of choice	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff
11	General Mentoring and Advocacy is ramped up to help student and family navigate into post secondary education: college selection, program selection, financial aid, scholarships, MME/ACT test preparation support, college application, etc. Targeted at MO Intensive Support students and families.	Begin to investigate specific requirements for program entrance and funding. Understand academic preparation requirements.	MO ISP staff, district liaisons, Higher Ed. partners, Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.

	Job shadowing, particularly in career areas of need such as math, science, technology.	Concretely link student to high school graduation, post secondary education, future career. Towards ensuring future employment and obtaining ACG's or SMART grants toward post secondary.	GVSU MAREC and Annis, Chambers of Commerce, schools, social agencies, health community, links with mentor groups, Muskegon First, all other Muskegon area businesses.
	Scholarship Fest: learning about how scholarships and financial aid work for MO Intensive Support students and families. Higher education partners take turns hosting. Have two sessions this year.	Getting the jump on specific information on scholarships, grants, financial aid, and program applications	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff, district liaisons
12	General Mentoring and Advocacy is ramped up to help student and family navigate into post secondary education: college selection, program selection, financial aid, scholarships, MME/ACT test preparation support, college application, etc. Targeted at MO Intensive Support students and families.	Continue investigation of specific requirements for program entrance and funding. Understand academic preparation requirements.	MO ISP staff, district liaisons, Higher Ed. partners, Rotary Strive, Men and Women of Character/Mentoring Collaborative, Sororities, Fraternities, other Service Clubs, Cooperating Churches, etc.
	Job shadowing, particularly in career areas of need such as math, science, technology.	Concretely link student to high school graduation, post secondary education, future career. Towards ensuring future employment and obtaining ACG's or SMART grants toward post secondary.	GVSU MAREC and Annis, Chambers of Commerce, schools, social agencies, health community, links with mentor groups, Muskegon First, all other Muskegon area businesses.
	Preparing for scholarships and financial aid for MO Intensive Support students and families. Higher education partners take turns hosting. Have two sessions this year; include College Goal Sunday.	Specific information on scholarships, grants, financial aid, and applications. Time to work individually with families.	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff, district liaisons, trained volunteers from other community sectors

	Persistence Seminars: concrete, active role-playing seminars on how to “live through” post secondary education. How to make decisions, find resources, advocate for self, maintain scholarships, maintain good grades, study, etc. <u>for MO ISP students.</u> How to support your student, keep him or her in school, develop self-motivation and advocacy <u>for MO ISP parent/guardians.</u>	Enrolling in post secondary is the first step. Staying there to degree/certificate completion is difficult. Michigan’s post secondary persistence rate is not the best.	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff, district liaisons, trained volunteers from other community sectors, parent-to-parent volunteers, and student role models.
Post Sec.	Support liaison for MO ISP students; support activities. A link with a known person(s) on campus.	Maintain positive peer pressure; help MO ISP students complete education.	Higher Ed. partners, MO ISP staff.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program staff will present program evaluation data on an annual basis to the Muskegon Opportunity Advisory Committee. The data will include:

- Percent of Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support students, by grade level, currently enrolled in school and active in the program.
- Percent of Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support students, by grade level 9-12, proceeding on time toward high school graduation.
- Percent of Muskegon Opportunity Intensive Support students enrolled in post-secondary education or a formal training program for a first year; percent completing a second year.
- Numbers of students and parents/guardians participating in Muskegon Opportunity ISP activities, anecdotal and survey information.

Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship

Student Eligibility:

- Students must reside within the MAISD boundaries.
- Graduating high school seniors who have earned a diploma from any public, parochial or charter high school within the MAISD boundaries
- Any student, before age 21 or under, who has earned a GED Certificate from a program within the MAISD boundaries
- Note: Home-schooled students and Muskegon County residents who graduate from a school outside of the MAISD boundaries **are not eligible**.

Postsecondary Programs Eligible:

- Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship will be available for use at Muskegon Community College, Baker College of Muskegon and at a limited number of technical schools/programs as recommended by the Muskegon Area Career Technical Center.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Earn a high school diploma from a public, parochial or charter high school within the MAISD boundaries.
- Or earn a GED Certificate before age 21 from a public or parochial school program within the MAISD boundaries. (This includes Muskegon County residents who earn a GED from the Oceana High School Alternative Education Program as approved by the Montague Public Schools.)
- Gain admission to one of the designated participating post-secondary institutions
- Enroll at a minimum as a half time, student beginning with the Fall semester following graduation from high school
- Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each college year by March 1
- Apply for the State of Michigan Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) if eligible, before graduation from high school
- Take the Michigan Merit Exam. Students eligible to take the Michigan Merit Exam a second time must do so.
- Certify the Michigan Promise Award (if eligible) with the State of Michigan by November 15 of graduation year
- Seek information and make application to a minimum of two other scholarship programs
- Apply to the Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship

Renewal Requirements:

- Achieve a cumulative college GPA of 2.0, earning a minimum of 20 credits in year-one of post-secondary education
- Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each college year by March 1

Value:

- The maximum value of the Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship will be equal to the prevailing two year cost of Muskegon Community College tuition plus a book allowance to be determined
- The Muskegon Opportunity Safety Net Scholarship will be awarded on a graduated scale, according to the number of years the student has attended school within the MAISD boundaries

Payments:

- Funds will be paid directly to the participating post-secondary institutions.
- Muskegon Opportunity Funds will be applied after all other available student aid has been applied to a student's expenses. In no case will a student receive funds in excess of tuition and books costs.

Administration:

- Current projections estimate that 1.5 FTE year round positions will be required to process the estimated 600 – 800 applications annually, review and determine eligibility and administer the program with a projected annual cost of \$110,000. Who will administer the Muskegon Opportunity and under what terms is yet to be determined.
- An oversight or governing body will need to be developed to assist with the implementation and administration of the Muskegon Opportunity program.

Funding:

- Current estimates project a funding gap of approximately two million dollars annually for the financial aid portion that is required to assure the Muskegon Opportunity commitment to every eligible high school graduate. While funding the Muskegon Opportunity is a daunting challenge, those involved in the planning for the Muskegon Opportunity are convinced that the Muskegon region has the ability, will, resources and wherewithal to finance a PreK-14 Muskegon Opportunity.
- A variety of funding options will be considered and evaluated on their individual value/merit to Muskegon County.

- Private philanthropic and corporate funding will be needed to support the organization and administration of the Muskegon Opportunity
- To assure that local funds identified to support the Muskegon Opportunity program are used exclusively to benefit students, the cost to administer the Muskegon Opportunity program will be born by the private philanthropic and the for-profit corporate sector for the first ten years of the life of the Muskegon Opportunity program or until such time as State or Federal resources should become available to support the program.