

State University of New York (SUNY) Top 10% Promise



What is the type of admissions redesign?

Direct Admissions: High school students are proactively notified by a state postsecondary agency or system of their acceptance to at least one two- or four-year institution based on academic criteria (e.g., GPA) and can select the institution(s) of their choice by completing a simplified application without an application fee.

In which state is it based?

New York

What state postsecondary agency or system sponsors the program?

State University of New York (SUNY)

When was the program first started?


2024

Does the student or state agency/system initiate the admissions process?



SUNY

What are the central characteristics of the program?

The SUNY 10% Promise provides direct admission to students in the top 10% of their high school class who also meet specific academic preparation requirements. Eligible students will be automatically matched with one or more selective SUNY campuses – without completing a traditional application. High schools send a letter to eligible students, including information on how they can opt-in. Students will be asked to confirm their participation by answering a few questions and agreeing to have their academic record sent to SUNY. High Schools will confirm student eligibility and provide a transcript. Once a student is confirmed eligible, SUNY will inform them to which of the nine participating campuses they have been admitted. Students will also have the opportunity to apply to five additional SUNY campuses for free during this process.

 <p>Program Scope</p>	<p>Does the program include all high school districts or only a portion? Is opt-in required?</p>	<p>SUNY has invited 61 school districts, including more than 800 high schools, to participate in the program, including larger school districts in the state and those considered high needs districts, including New York City. Students opt-in by answering a few questions and agreeing to have their academic record sent to SUNY. High Schools will confirm student eligibility and provide a transcript.</p>
	<p>Does the program support admission to four-year institutions, two-year institutions, or both?</p>	<p>Four-year institutions</p>
	<p>Which institutions are participating in the program?</p>	<p>There are nine SUNY campuses participating in the program: University at Albany, University at Buffalo, SUNY ESF, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Purchase College, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and Stony Brook University.</p>

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Eligibility Criteria and Application 	What are the academic eligibility criteria for students?	Students must be in the top 10% of their high school class AND at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track to graduate with an Advanced Regents diploma OR an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma OR On track to graduate with a Regents diploma AND has achieved at least one of the following: SAT combined score of 1100 or higher (reading and math), ACT composite score of 23 or higher, Two AP exams scores of 3 or greater in English, History, Math or Science, Two IB exams scores of 5 or greater in English, History, Math or Science.
	Are students still required to apply to postsecondary institutions?	No; students have to complete a simplified form instead of a traditional application.
	Is the application fee waived ?	No application fee is required
Data and Policy 	What is the data source for the program?	High schools determine the top 10% of graduating seniors and upload their transcripts in Application Manager for students who opted in. Students opt-in by answering a few questions and agreeing to have their academic record sent to SUNY. High Schools will confirm student eligibility and provide a transcript through SUNY Application Manager (www.suny.edu/counselor). New York City public schools will have transcripts automatically transmitted through the current agreement with SUNY and will not have to be uploaded. Once a student is confirmed eligible, SUNY will inform them to which of the nine participating campuses they have been directly admitted to.
	Did the state or system adopt policy related to the program, and if so what does the policy include?	The Governor announced the program, without additional legislation or regulation. ⁱ

Information above is up to date as of December 2025

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-initiatives-increase-access-higher-education>