STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Students:

It's never too early to start to prepare for college. Graduation will be here before you know it! When that time comes, you will be so excited and proud of your accomplishments. You and your family will also want to know that you are well-prepared for the next big step – college. *Grab College Prep* will help you start planning *now* for a successful future, both academically and financially.

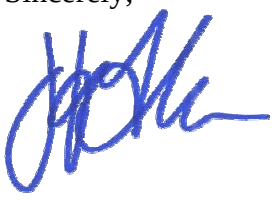
To succeed in today's knowledge-based economy, your education cannot end at high school. More than 85 percent of good-paying jobs right here in Michigan will require postsecondary education and a college degree. To help better prepare you for college, I've signed into law more rigorous high school graduation requirements. These higher curriculum standards (listed in this publication) will give you the strong academic foundation you need to succeed in college and earn a degree.

Investing in a college education is an investment in YOU that will pay for itself many times over. College graduates earn an average of $1 million more during their careers than high school graduates. That's quite a return on investment that will continue to grow during your lifetime!

If you didn't think you could afford college, now you can. We've made college more affordable and accessible for *every* high school senior in Michigan. Now *every* student who scores well on the high school assessment will receive a $4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship to attend any two- or four-year school in Michigan, public or private. In addition, the Michigan Department of Treasury's Bureau of Student Financial Services offers a variety of programs listed in this publication to help every Michigan family afford college. I encourage you to take full advantage of all the financial resources available.

You are a big part of Michigan's bright future and the upcoming leaders of our great state. Get ready for tomorrow starting today! You deserve every opportunity to pursue your dreams of a college education and become anything you want to be. I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

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