



Unlock your future. Empower your dreams.



EXPERIENCE THE BEARCAT ADVANTAGE

battlecreekpublicschools.org/bearcatadvantage

WHAT IS THE BEARCAT ADVANTAGE?

The Bearcat Advantage is a historic scholarship exclusively available to Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) graduates that sets students up to continue on the path to career, college, and community success! It was established with the support of our longtime partner, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, who have stood by us most recently in support of our district transformation since 2017.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

- Covers up to 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at eligible four-year colleges and universities in Michigan or nearly 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country for qualifying graduates of Battle Creek Public Schools.
- The longer you've been at BCPS, the bigger the scholarship you receive! A student's benefit percentage of tuition and mandatory fees covered by Bearcat Advantage can be determined using a sliding scale based on the number of years they've been enrolled in BCPS.
- Students have up to 6 years after graduation to utilize their Bearcat Advantage scholarship funds.
- Pays up to the student's maximum award for each year of education until ANY ONE of the following is achieved:
 - 145 credit hours have been awarded
 - Six years from the date of the student's high school graduation is reached
 - A Bachelor's degree is attained



LEARN MORE

For more information, visit battlecreekpublicschools.org/BearcatAdvantage. Or scan the QR code at the left.

QUESTIONS?

Email us at bearcatadvantage@battlecreekpublicschools.org.



THE BEARCAT ADVANTAGE PARTNERS WITH MICHIGAN COLLEGES ALLIANCE

Additional scholarship funding to top private universities and colleges in Michigan for Bearcat Advantage recipients!

Starting with the class of 2024, BCPS graduates eligible to receive the Bearcat Advantage can now have up to 100% of their tuition and mandatory fees covered at 15 Michigan Colleges Alliance (MCA) private colleges and universities in the state, opening new doors for our students.

Each participating MCA institution will match the difference between its tuition and fees and the maximum amount covered by the Bearcat Advantage scholarship for eligible Bearcat Advantage graduates, covering up to 100% of tuition and fees.

The 15 participating institutions include:

- Adrian College
- Albion College
- Alma College
- Andrews University
- Aquinas College
- Calvin University
- College for Creative Studies
- University of Detroit Mercy
- Hillsdale College
- Hope College
- Kalamazoo College
- Madonna University
- The University of Olivet
- Siena Heights University
- Spring Arbor University





ELIGIBLE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S.

We are proud to be able to offer the Bearcat Advantage scholarship to graduates attending eligible Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country.

HBCUs are open to all students and provide them with something they can't get anywhere else — a diverse and inclusive community that celebrates the richness of the Black experience.

Bearcat Alumni have seen success at many HBCUs, including:

- Alabama A&M
- Alcorn State University
- Howard University
- Hampton University
- Jackson State University
- Miles College
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Southern University and A&M
- And more!

To see the full list of eligible HBCUs, go to battlecreekpublicschools.org/BearcatAdvantage



ELIGIBLE PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN MICHIGAN

In addition to the eligible Michigan Colleges Alliance institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Bearcat Advantage scholarship is eligible for use at the following list of four-year public colleges and universities in Michigan:

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Grand Valley State University
- Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University
- Lake Superior State University
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Northern Michigan University
- Oakland University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- University of Michigan
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students who graduate from either Battle Creek Central High School or W.K. Kellogg Preparatory High School and who have been a BCPS student for at least their entire high school career from September 1st of 9th grade are eligible for the scholarship. Award amounts are based on the length of time a student has been **continuously enrolled** in one of the BCPS schools listed below.

Time enrolled in other public, private, or charter schools not listed below does not qualify for the continuous BCPS enrollment requirement. Students who re-enroll in BCPS after attending other schools or districts would be eligible for the percentage that corresponds with the first full year of BCPS enrollment after returning.

LENGTH OF ENROLLMENT AT BCPS*	% OF TUITION & MANDATORY FEES COVERED
K-12	100%
1-12	95%
2-12	95%
3-12	95%
4-12	90%
5-12	85%
6-12	80%
7-12	75%
8-12	70%
9-12	65%
10-12	Ineligible**
11-12	Ineligible**
12-12	Ineligible**

* Must be enrolled by September 1 of each school year.

** Learn more about other scholarship opportunities at

battlecreekpublicschools.org/scholarships

ELIGIBLE BCPS SCHOOLS

Elementary Schools

- Ann J. Kellogg Elementary (3-6)
- Dudley Elementary (PK-2)
- Fremont International Academy (K-5)
- LaMora Park Elementary (PK-2)
- Post-Franklin Elementary (PK-2)
- Valley View Elementary (PK-5)
- Verona Elementary (3-5)

Middle Schools

- Battle Creek STEM Innovation Center (6-8)
- Northwestern Middle School (6-8)
- Springfield Middle School (6-8)

High Schools

- Battle Creek Central High School (9-12)
- W.K. Kellogg Preparatory High School (10-12)

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to live in the Battle Creek area to receive the scholarship?

- Residency is not a requirement as long as you are enrolled at a BCPS school, have been a BCPS student since at least September 1st of 9th grade, and will be continuously enrolled at BCPS through graduation.

What exactly does the Bearcat Advantage pay for?

- The Bearcat Advantage can only be applied toward tuition and mandatory fees. Room and board, textbooks, transportation, and other costs are not covered by the Bearcat Advantage.

Are there requirements that must be met to maintain eligibility throughout college or university?

- Students must be making regular progress toward a four-year degree as defined by Satisfactory Academic Standards of the school, maintain a 2.0 GPA at the post-secondary institution, and maintain a full-time student status, which is typically 12 credit hours or more per semester.

Does the scholarship have to be used immediately following graduation?

- No. Scholarship funds are available to use for six years after high school graduation. Students applying for the Bearcat Advantage after their senior year of high school should initiate the application process by emailing bearcatadvantage@battlecreekpublicschools.org at least one full semester prior to their desired enrollment date.

What if I don't qualify for the Bearcat Advantage?

- There are several funding opportunities available to BCPS graduates which you may be eligible for, such as Legacy Scholars, SEED Awards, and many other scholarships through the BCPS Education Foundation and Battle Creek Community Foundation. For a list of other scholarships, visit battlecreekpublicschools.org/scholarships.

Is there an appeal process?

- Appeals are available only for exceptional circumstances. All appeals must start by contacting bearcatadvantage@battlecreekpublicschools.org.



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Special thanks to the Battle Creek Public Schools Education Foundation