



Say Yes to Education

**SAY YES**

# frequently asked questions

## Syracuse Higher Education Compact



### **What is Say Yes to Education?**

Say Yes to Education, Inc. (Say Yes) is a national, non-profit foundation committed to dramatically increasing high school and college graduation rates for urban youth.

For over 20 years, Say Yes has provided comprehensive support, including the promise of a full college or vocational education, and a host of other educational, social and health care resources to enable every child in the program to achieve his or her potential.

The cornerstone of the Say Yes to Education program is the commitment of college scholarships to eligible students. The promise of college financial assistance is supported with a wide range of services beginning when a child enters kindergarten and continues through high school and beyond. Say Yes includes afterschool and summer programming, mentoring, tutoring, school-day academic support and family outreach.

### **How does the scholarship program work?**

Say Yes to Education has created a Higher Education Compact representing 23 colleges and universities to provide scholarships to eligible graduates of the Say Yes to Education program. The majority of the schools provide financial aid that covers full tuition, books and fees for all admitted students. Some schools do have an income cap (see the attached list for information on participating schools).

A student who successfully graduates through the Say Yes program is eligible for scholarship aid as long as he/she gains admittance to a Compact school through the regular application process. This includes completing all appropriate applications, financial aid forms and meeting all deadlines for submission.

### **Who is eligible for the Say Yes to Education Scholarship?**

Beginning with the Class of 2009, any student who has been a resident of the City of Syracuse for at least three years and has attended 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the Syracuse City School District is eligible for a Say Yes to Education scholarship.

### **Do students automatically get scholarships if they graduate?**

Students within the Say Yes to Education program must follow the same rules of college admittance as everyone else. Once admitted to a Compact school they become eligible for a Say Yes scholarship.

### **Can a Say Yes scholarship be used at another institution?**

The Say Yes scholarship benefit is available only at institutions that are members of the Higher Education Compact.

**Does the Say Yes to Education Scholarship include room and board?**

The Say Yes to Education Scholarship does **not** include room and board, but some financial aid packages may defray this cost.

**Why are the scholarships at SUNY/CUNY schools only available for one year?**

The '09-'10 scholarship benefit for students attending a SUNY/CUNY school is a one-year solution to provide students with the aid they need to go to school while Say Yes works on finalizing an agreement with the State of New York to secure a long-term commitment for SUNY/CUNY school participation in the Higher Education Compact. Efforts are being made on the local level to raise scholarship funds; for example, the Community Foundation set up a \$1 million matching grant.

**How do I get more information?**

Visit your guidance counselor, or go to [www.syracusecityschools.com](http://www.syracusecityschools.com) or [www.sayyestoeducation.org](http://www.sayyestoeducation.org).

**What schools are members of the Higher Education Compact?**

Adelphi University  
Clarkson University  
Columbia University\*  
Cooper Union  
Goodwin College  
Hartwick College  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
Houghton College  
Le Moyne College\*  
Manhattanville College  
Marist College  
Medaille College  
Molloy College  
New York Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Polytechnic University  
Rochester Institute of Technology\*  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Sarah Lawrence\*  
Syracuse University  
Tufts University\*  
University of Pennsylvania\*  
University of Rochester

\* Provides aid to students whose income does not exceed \$75,000.