



Bill Number:	W-25-04	Sponsored By:	Senator Thomas Johnstone
Introduced On:	March 13th, 2025		
Voted On:	March 20th, 2025		
Result:	PASSED		
Vote Count:	32-0-1		

A BILL TO: Amend the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Grand Valley Pledge eligibility requirements by increasing the income and asset limit from \$50,000 to \$60,000, aligning with Michigan’s median income and the Pell Grant guidelines.

Recognizing, the Grand Valley Pledge is a last-dollar program that currently provides tuition-free education to students from families with an income and asset limit of \$50,000 or less¹; and

Recognizing, Michigan's median household income increased from \$72,210 in 2021 to \$76,960 in 2023²; and

Whereas, the median income of full-time Michigan families in 2024 was \$63,498³, underscoring the urgent need for this adjustment to ensure continued accessibility to higher education; and,

Whereas, the Pell Grant eligibility threshold aligns more closely with an income level of \$60,000, making this adjustment appropriate for consistency in financial aid guidelines⁴; and

Recognizing, The University of Michigan Go Blue Guarantee before Fall 2025 was set at \$75,000, and it will increase to \$125,000 by Fall 2025⁵; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/gvpledge>

² <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MEHOINUSMIA672N>

³ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/median-household-income-by-state>

⁴ <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/202425DRAFTSAIGuideSupplementEligibilityforMaxorMinPellGrantResource.pdf>

⁵ <https://goblueguarantee.umich.edu/ann-arbor>

Recognizing, the Spartan Advantage⁶ and the CMU Tuition Advantage⁷ are both set at \$65,000; the Wayne State Guarantee has a \$70,000 income limit and a \$50,000 asset limit⁸ and the Eastern Michigan University Eagle Guarantee is \$60,000⁹; and

Whereas, expanding eligibility will increase access to higher education for low- and middle-income families while being in line with the Cultural Educational Equity strategy of Reach Higher 2025 by “Removing systemic barriers to educational access, retention, and persistence”¹⁰; and

Whereas, that financial aid is crucial for first-year college students as it reduces financial stress and makes education more accessible and affordable; it also enables students from diverse backgrounds to focus on academics rather than finances, fostering equal opportunities, higher retention rates, and setting a foundation for long-term success; and

Whereas, the university strategically advances to “Identify opportunities for expanding access and experiences for more learners”¹¹; and

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, the Grand Valley State University’s Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, requests the Grand Valley Pledge eligibility criteria be amended to increase the income and asset limit from \$50,000 to \$60,000; and

Furthermore, Let it Be Resolved, that an annual review will be conducted to assess the impact of this change on student enrollment and financial aid distribution.

⁶ <https://finaid.msu.edu/spartan-tuition-advantage>

⁷ <https://www.cmich.edu/offices-departments/office-scholarships-financial-aid/applying-for-financial-aid/>

⁸ <https://wayne.edu/admissions/guarantee>

⁹ <https://www.emich.edu/eagle-guarantee>

¹⁰ <https://www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher/commitments-33.htm>

¹¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher/our-impact-27.htm>