ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for an initial Baldwin Promise scholarship, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Reside within the boundaries of the Baldwin Community School District.

- Attend, for one or more years, and graduate from Baldwin High School or a non-public school (as defined in Public Act 549 of 2008) within the promise zone. The years attended will pro-rate the maximum annual amount of the Baldwin Promise Award as follows:
  - 9th – 12th Grade: 100%
  - 10th-12th Grade: 75%
  - 11th – 12th Grades: 50%
  - 12th Grade only: 25%
  - GED Completion: 10%

- Maximum scholarship awards are based on full time college attendance. Students who enroll part time during eligible years will receive pro-rated scholarship awards.

- Apply for, and use, the Baldwin Promise Scholarship awards within four years of graduation from Baldwin High School or a Non-Public School within the promise zone.*

*Consideration for extended eligibility or other extenuating circumstances requests may be considered by the Baldwin Michigan Promise Zone Authority Board.

BALDWIN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Any Baldwin High School graduate meeting Promise criteria who attends an eligible Michigan college or university will receive up to $5,000 or full tuition and fee payment.
(whichever is less) per year of college for up to four years ($20,000 maximum four year award). All students must first apply for federal and state grants, with individual scholarship awards varying according to the total cost of tuition and fees and the amount of federal and state grant awards identified prior to Baldwin Promise Scholarship Award determination. The Baldwin Promise Scholarship is intended to be a “middle dollar” scholarship used to cover tuition and other mandatory fees not covered by federal or state grant sources. In the financial aid package for students, it could be used to replace loan or work study portions but should not replace federal or state grants or scholarships. The Promise Award is not designed to replace scholarship awards received from private sources intended to enhance the maximum amount of the Baldwin Promise Scholarship.

Students must apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, and accept all federal or state money prior to the determination of the amount of the Baldwin Promise. Expected family contributions and subsidized loan programs do not reduce the amount of the Baldwin Promise Scholarship.

**APPROVED COLLEGES**

The Baldwin Promise scholarships may be used at a public or private postsecondary institution in Michigan or a combination of public or private postsecondary institutions in Michigan, subject to any limitations authorized under section seven (7) of Public Act 549. The proposed promise of financial assistance may also, at most, provide funding for an eligible student to attend a private college in Michigan in an amount not to exceed the average tuition necessary to obtain a bachelor's degree at all public universities in the state or the maximum amount of the Promise Scholarship, whichever is less.

**CONTINUATION THROUGHOUT COLLEGE**

Each year the student attends the college of his/her choice, the student must:

- Earn at least a 2.0 grade point average per semester/trimester in college.
- Apply for (FAFSA) and accept Federal and State Grants (Pell and TIP).
- Apply for the continuation of the Baldwin Promise Scholarship.
- Supply a copy of their college transcript with the application, and also supply any financial aid awards for the next year of college attendance. The amount of the Baldwin Promise may be adjusted each year based on any revised financial information provided.
BEGINNING OF BALDWIN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The first scholarships were awarded to the graduating class of 2010 and continue thereafter. The base year for capture of state education tax was established as 2009.

ADMINISTRATION

Baldwin Community Schools’ administrative staff provides ongoing monitoring, oversight, and assistance to the Baldwin Promise Zone Authority Board. The Promise Zone Coordinator will manage the scholarship program, establish and staff the College Access Center, develop and implement college readiness activities and report progress of the program to the Promise Authority, MCAN, Public Policy Associates, the Department of Treasury, the Baldwin School Board, and the public.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR BALDWIN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Individuals, businesses, and the Baldwin Rotary Club have been active for several years in providing scholarships for Baldwin High School graduates. Most of those scholarship awards have been endowed and administered through the Lake County Community Foundation. Significant efforts to obtain major contributions to endow a Baldwin Promise Program have been ongoing by a small group of Lake County Community Foundation Board members, Promise Authority Board members, and other concerned citizens. The College Fund at the Lake County Community Foundation has been established with the goal of supporting college scholarships for Lake County students and Baldwin Promise Zone students. Funds from the endowment could supplement scholarship awards for Promise Zone students or be used to give scholarships for students who might not qualify for Baldwin Promise Scholarships but still live in Lake County. Efforts to obtain significant contributions from private sources to be held with Lake County Community Foundation to endow the Baldwin Promise Program goals continue.

In order to initiate the first two years of Baldwin Promise Scholarships to be awarded by the Baldwin Promise Zone Authority Board with private funding as required in the legislation, a fundraising campaign was launched by the Lake County Community Foundation to raise the estimated maximum amount of $120,000 to provide the first two years of Baldwin Promise Scholarship Awards. At the June 7, 2009 Lake County Community Foundation Board Meeting, a $20,000 challenge grant was approved which
will match dollar for dollar the first $20,000 of private donations dedicated to the newly created Baldwin Promise Scholarship Fund held at LCCF. The Community Foundation has created a special account and began collecting the funding intended to be turned over to the Promise Zone Authority to pay for startup expenses and the first two years of Baldwin Promise Scholarship Awards. The Lake County Community Foundation subsequently made a second $20,000 match commitment and the total of commitments and actual collections has now exceeded the $120,000 fundraising goal.

All scholarship awards in 2010 and 2011 have been and will continue to be made from private funding sources flowing through the Lake County Community Foundation and turned over to the Baldwin Promise Zone Authority Board.

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT FOR BALDWIN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

There were 23 graduates from Baldwin High School eligible to receive the Baldwin Promise. Fourteen of those graduates entered college in the fall of 2010.

We estimate based on current enrollment, historic graduation rates, and some growth for the re-opening of the largest employer in the school district (a private prison which will employ 500), that the district will graduate a maximum of 21 college-bound students in 2011.

When awarding Baldwin Promise Scholarships as defined above for tuition and fees after the use of anticipated Pell Grants, and the Michigan Tuition Incentive Program, we project the cost for the first two years of awarding Baldwin Promise Scholarships to be a maximum of $120,000. (We fully expect to have carryover dollars from this to fund part of the third year based on these projections as well.)

The school district has experienced average growth of $25 million in the taxable value over the past five years until 2009. Since more than half the county is owned by the state or federal governments and not taxable, we know about 70% of the county’s taxable value is waterfront property. We also know very little of that has changed hands since 1994. Therefore, SEVs have soared while taxable values have grown about 3% per year leaving a wide gap between SEV and taxable values. A $120 million expansion of the local, private prison (which even before the upgrades paid 10% of all local property taxes in the entire county) will more than offset lower inflation. The bottom line is that we conservatively project half the growth in SET will be more than enough to fund the promise in out years.
Nevertheless, we have organized a subcommittee on the Promise Authority dealing with Long Term Development through the local community foundation. We have established the College Fund at the Foundation and continue to raise endowed funds to help support the Baldwin Promise program in future years.

Until such time as there is sufficient growth in the District’s SET to provide tax dollars to support the program, the Baldwin Promise Zone Authority Board is committed to obtaining sufficient resources to finance the Promise Scholarships at the level promised in this plan.