

**GUARANTEED ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
and
JERSEY SHORE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2022, between Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education (including Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield campuses) and Jersey Shore Area School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises hereinafter expressed and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Parties agree as follows:

A. INTRODUCTION

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania and Jersey Shore Area School District (hereinafter referred to as “Commonwealth University and “JSASD”) agree to establish this Guaranteed Admissions agreement. JSASD students who apply for admission to and graduate from JSASD are guaranteed admission to Commonwealth University on the condition they graduate from Jersey Shore Area School District, apply to Commonwealth University by December 15 of the students’ senior year, and satisfy all application requirements to the major at Commonwealth University.

Nursing and some science programs remain selective and have enrollment capacities. It is critical students apply as early as possible to these majors to receive early consideration for admission.

Commonwealth University will recognize and reward students for their academic preparation at JSASD by awarding a tiered scholarship merit program for JSASD graduates. The following criteria for admission and scholarship consideration must be met:

1. Apply for admission to Commonwealth University no later than December 15 of the students’ senior year.
2. Graduate from Jersey Shore Area School District.
3. Commonwealth University will award 4 tiers of academic merit scholarships to JSASD graduates according to the following academic preparedness of the student applicant:
 - i. **Tier 1 - 95% or above cumulative GPA at JSASD - \$28,000; \$7,000 annually**
 - ii. **Tier 2 - 90-94% cumulative GPA at JSASD - \$24,000; \$6,000 annually**

- iii. **Tier 3 - 85-89% cumulative GPA at JSASD - \$16,000; \$4,000 annually**
- iv. **Tier 4 – 80-84% cumulative GPA at JSASD - \$12,000; \$3,000 annually**
- 4. JSASD scholarship recipients must remain enrolled full-time at Commonwealth University for a minimum of 12 credits per academic semester and must maintain an overall GPA of 2.50 at Commonwealth University to remain eligible for the scholarship.
- 5. The scholarship is renewable for up to four (4) academic years, or eight (8) consecutive fall and spring academic semesters, if the criteria in #4 above are met.
- 6. Commonwealth University will guarantee on-campus housing at the Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, or Mansfield campuses, for up to four (4) years of full-time student enrollment.

The purposes of this agreement are:

- 1. To establish a Guaranteed Admissions Agreement to recognize and reward the academic preparation of all Jersey Shore Area School District graduates in their pursuit of higher education.
- 2. To enable graduates of Jersey Shore Area High School to build upon their education and training by earning a baccalaureate degree in a seamless educational partnership.
- 3. To enable Commonwealth University to attract a more diverse population of students who have already demonstrated academic success.
- 4. To enable JSASD graduates to obtain a quality education at a low cost, and, in doing so, provide the commonwealth with additional qualified graduates.
- 5. To ensure recognition of the continuity of academic progress, consideration for the transferability of credits between secondary and post-secondary institutions, and to reward strong academic performance during the students' high school career.

B. PROCEDURES

JSASD agrees to publicize this Guaranteed Admissions Agreement to students in its school district communications and correspondence, and to inform qualified, matriculating students of the opportunity for admission to, and scholarship qualifications, at Commonwealth University under the terms of this agreement. Commonwealth University will recognize student attendance at the Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield campuses.

JSASD students must enroll no later than the fall semester immediately following their high school graduation. They cannot attend another two-year or four-year institution after graduating from JSASD. Otherwise, the Guaranteed Admissions and matching scholarship is null and void.

JSASD students must complete the Commonwealth University Application for Admission by December 15 of their senior year to qualify for the Guaranteed Admissions and scholarship criteria. Late applicants who apply for admission after that deadline may not be considered as part of the agreement and scholarship criteria.

The following items are the responsibility of students participating in the Guaranteed Admissions program:

1. Graduate from Jersey Shore Area School District with a minimum overall grade point average that satisfies the academic standards of the school district and The Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. At the time of application, provide transcripts of all courses completed up to and including the current grade reporting period.
3. Upon graduating from JSASD, provide official final transcripts to Commonwealth University.
4. JSASD students must complete the Commonwealth University Application for Admission by December 15 if enrolling for the following fall semester, and to be considered for the Guaranteed Admissions and scholarship award criteria. Admission under this agreement will be contingent upon completing items 1 to 3, above, and graduation from Jersey Shore Area School District.
5. Pay the required advanced deposit to hold a seat for the initial semester of admittance.
6. Pay Commonwealth University's tuition and fees for those semesters in which they are registered for courses at Commonwealth University.

C. CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. A Program Coordinator shall be identified at JSASD and Commonwealth University who will assist all students in transition regarding the application process, housing requirements at Commonwealth University, major selection and campus location, academic advising, and consideration for a scholarship award to Commonwealth University.
2. The term of this agreement shall be five (5) years commencing when all applicable signatures are obtained. The first cohort of eligible JSASD students to participate in this agreement will be part of the graduating Class of 2023 who will enroll at Commonwealth University for the Fall 2023 academic semester
3. Any JSASD student who has successfully earned credits through dual enrollment programs at Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, or Mansfield Universities, or at other two-year or four-year accredited institutions, will have those credits appropriately applied to their major of study, once a major is declared and the student is accepted to Commonwealth University.

4. Either institution may withdraw from the agreement upon written notification of the other, with exception to commitments already in effect for students who have applied to Commonwealth University. Such commitments will be honored. In the event of a substantial breach, such as, a lack of response to requests for information and or adequate participation, either party may terminate this agreement.
5. The relationship of the parties to this contract shall not be construed to constitute a partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship, other than that of independent contractors.
6. The parties agree to continue their respective policies of nondiscrimination based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in regard to sex, age, race, color, creed, national origin, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and other applicable laws, as well as the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
7. Neither of the parties shall assume any liabilities as a result of this agreement. As to liability to each other, death to persons, or damages to property, the parties do not waive any defense as a result of entering into this contract. This provision shall not be construed to limit Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania's rights, claims or defenses, which arise as a matter of law pursuant to any provisions of this contract. This provision shall not be construed to limit the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education or Commonwealth University.
8. This agreement represents the entire understanding between the parties. This agreement can be modified only in writing with the same formality as the original agreement.
9. This agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed pursuant to due and legal action authorizing the same to be done the date first written above.

Commonwealth University of
Pennsylvania:

Jersey Shore Area School District :

President
Commonwealth University
Date: _____

Superintendent
Jersey Shore Area School District
Date: _____

Provost and Senior VP, Academic Affairs
Commonwealth University
Date: _____

High School Principal
Jersey Shore Area School District
Date: _____

University Legal Counsel
Date: _____