Here are Jiovanni and his friend Maya. Both of them are part of a program at their school called the ISU 4U Promise. Read this handbook with your friends and family to learn more about what the ISU 4U Promise means for you!
Jiovanni greets his mom as he enters the kitchen. He slides into a chair at the table and pulls a book from his backpack.

HE DOESN'T NOTICE AS A BRIGHT BROCHURE SLIPS FROM HIS BACKPACK AND FALLS ON THE FLOOR BY HIS MOM.

“What’s this, Jiovanni?” she asks, picking it up.

“Oh, that reminds me, Mom! The teachers told us about a special opportunity today. Someone in our community talked to the president of a university and now we have a chance to get an award to go to college!”

“Really? What kind of an award?”

“It says on that paper.”
OVERVIEW

The ISU 4U Promise program began March 31, 2013. On that day, the King and Moulton elementary schools joined with Iowa State University to create a new pathway to college. They named it the ISU 4U Promise. That pathway lets students of the two schools earn tuition awards to attend Iowa State. The university and Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) have become partners. They want to help students from King and Moulton go to college.

Two of the people who worked to start the program are Dr. Steven Leath, president of Iowa State University, and State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad. Abdul-Samad grew up in your community and had a dream of helping his neighbors. He is the founder of a community organization called Creative Visions.

VISION

The vision of the ISU 4U Promise is to work with people in your community, like organization leaders, parents, and teachers, to help children develop knowledge and skills to be leaders in their own neighborhoods and beyond. The ISU 4U Promise believes that going to college can help children develop these talents.

MISSION

The mission of the ISU 4U Promise is to make it possible for students from King and Moulton to get a college education at Iowa State University.
“Look, Mom,” Jiovanni says, pointing to the brochure. “Any student who graduates fifth grade at either King or Moulton might be able to get an award to pay for some of college."

“Jiovanni, you will graduate fifth grade next year!” his mom replies. “Is that all you need to do? Is there anything else?”

“You have to go to school, listen to the teachers, and help other students learn too,” he explains.

“You do all of those things, Jiovanni! You are a good student. Your teachers always tell me so.”

“It looks like the award is based on how long I’ve been at my school. Mom, when did we move here?” Jiovanni wonders.

“Let’s see, we moved here at the beginning of second grade,” she says. “Then you stayed through third and fourth grade. That’s three years. And next year, you will be in fifth grade, so that’s four years total.”

“From this chart, it looks like I can get an 80 percent tuition award. That means Iowa State University will pay 80 percent of...”

“Everything?” asks his mom.

“The cost of taking classes but not books, housing, or other fees.”

“That’s great, Jiovanni!” she says. “I know there are other programs and scholarships available to help us with those additional costs. I think our community organization might have some information to help us prepare.”
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Attend regularly and positively engage in the school environment.
- Make and work toward academic goals each year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Enrollment</th>
<th>Tuition Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Attend regularly and positively engage in the school environment to ensure high school readiness.
- Take classes that will prepare for success in high school.

**5TH GRADE**

- Complete 5th grade at King or Moulton.
- Submit a basic enrollment information to Iowa State University.
HIGH SCHOOL
▶ Attend regularly and positively engage in the school environment to ensure college readiness.
▶ Take classes that meet the admissions requirements to Iowa State University.

4 years English/language arts, 3 years math, 3 years science, 2 years social studies

11TH GRADE
▶ Take the ACT exam.

12TH GRADE
▶ Submit your application to Iowa State University, and be admitted for undergraduate studies.
▶ Apply for Federal Student Aid to help pay for college expenses (FAFSA) starting October 1.

OPTIONAL
▶ Community College
▶ Military

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Jiovanni goes back to school the next day, excited about the special ISU 4U Promise opportunity.

“How many of you remembered to talk with someone about the information I gave you yesterday?” his teacher asks the class, holding up the colorful brochure.

Jiovanni raises his hand. So does Maya, the girl sitting next to him.

“MAYA, WHO DID YOU TALK TO?”
THE TEACHER ASKS. “WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?”

“I talked with my uncle,” Maya tells her. “We talked about my grandma. Since she is sick, I might want to be a doctor so I can take care of people like her. He and I cook for her, go with her on walks, and help her remember her medicine. If I were a doctor, I could help people like her feel better.”

“Doctors study science, Maya,” the teacher explains. “That’s great because Iowa State University has lots of classes about science, but you also can study many other things. I’m so excited for all of you to have this chance to go to college, and I am here to help you get ready.”
Here’s just a short list of things Jiovanni and Maya could study at Iowa State University:

- Biology
- Fine Arts
- Biotechnology
- Human Sciences
- Business
- Journalism
- Computer Science
- Music
- Dance
- Physical Sciences
- Drama
- Premedical Sciences
- Education
- Sports and Exercise Sciences
- Engineering
- Veterinary Medicine
- Environmental Science
- World Languages

Admission to Iowa State University depends on your ACT test score, high school ranking, high school grade point average (GPA), and high school coursework. Working hard to take the right classes, understanding what you’re learning, and getting good grades will help you get into Iowa State.

Here are the steps to admission:

1. Take the ACT test during your 11th grade year.
2. Apply to ISU during your 12th grade year.
3. Look for other financial aid.

   - File the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) starting October 1 of your 12th grade year.
   - Look for other scholarships in your community that can be combined with the ISU 4U Promise tuition award.
Everyone wants to learn more about the ISU 4U Promise. The next morning after Jiovanni leaves for school, his mom sits at the kitchen table studying the brochure.

**JIOVANNI’S MOM GOES TO A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. MANY OTHER PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE ISU 4U PROMISE. THEY ASK FOR HELP IN PREPARING THEIR CHILDREN FOR COLLEGE.**

Maya’s uncle also has questions he wants to ask. He decides to call the ISU 4U Promise office. The assistant helps answer his questions and tells him exactly how much of the tuition award Maya will be able to get if she follows the pathway to ISU.

Maya’s uncle takes Maya’s grandmother for a walk in the park. They meet a friend who asks, “Did you hear about the ISU 4U Promise? I’m not sure I understand it.” Maya’s uncle explains what he’s learned.

Jiovanni and Maya’s teacher eats her lunch in the teachers’ lounge. She and the other teachers talk about how excited they are for the ISU 4U Promise opportunity. “The kids and their parents have so many questions,” they say. “We’re glad there are so many places to help them find answers.”
When did the program begin?
The program began in 2013. Students completing fifth grade at King or Moulton beginning in the 2013–2014 school year are eligible for the tuition award.

How does a child enroll?
Fifth graders at King and Moulton schools will submit a Letter of Interest at their schools at the end of fifth grade.

What does a tuition award cover? What expenses are not covered?
A tuition award covers the cost of taking classes for four years (or eight semesters). Room, board, books, and other ISU fees are not included.

What if my child leaves the DMPS district?
If your child leaves the DMPS district after 5th grade, they will no longer be eligible for the tuition award.

Can my child go to community college or into the military before applying to ISU?
Yes. Your child could spend two years at a community college or in the military. Eligibility for the ISU 4U tuition award must be claimed and used within six years of graduation from a DMPS high school.

What if my child gets another scholarship?
The tuition award may be combined with non-ISU scholarships or financial aid. If your child is awarded another ISU scholarship, he or she will need to choose which one to claim.

Are there programs to help make sure we are ready?
Yes! Please call the ISU 4U Promise office or Polk County Extension and Outreach office if you have questions.

Can we email or call you in Spanish?
Yes! We have staff who speak Spanish.
The ISU 4U Promise wants to make college a possibility for young people who attend King and Moulton elementary schools. As a parent, family member, teacher, or community organization, you have an important role to play in helping youth prepare for college. The first step is to learn more about the program so you can talk about it in your homes and classrooms. Look for informational sessions at the schools and at community organizations in your neighborhoods. You also can call or email the ISU 4U Promise office or go online to learn more.

ISU 4U Promise Office
Iowa State University
E115 Lagomarcino Hall
Ames, IA 50011-3191

515 294-4144
isu4u@iastate.edu
isu4u.org