* **The Challenge:** **Only 50% (500 HPS students) go to college each year, and only 50% of those that attend (or roughly 250 students) will actually graduate.**

**The Opportunities:** Hartford Promise can play a major role in increasing college awareness, college preparation, and student aspiration, raising the academic and college expectations of adults building a stronger college going culture in Hartford, increasing the size and talent of our local workforce, and attracting more people to live and attend Hartford Public Schools.

**The Goal:** of Hartford Promise is **to increase the number of college going students to 700 per year and to increase the number of successful college graduate to 450 students per year.**

* We believe that Hartford Promise can contribute to changing perceptions of Hartford and HPS as well as increase expectations and opportunities for students.
* Harford students face many educational challenges – awareness, access, financial barriers, right-matching, transition, and college persistence. Many are on a very “thin line” emotionally, economically, socially, and in other ways.
* What is Hartford Promise and how does it address many of these challenges:
* Removing Financial Barriers
* Changing college decision dynamics and possibilities
* Reaching Forward into college and Reaching Back into high school
* Our College Success Framework. “Take Luck out of It”
* Forging important collaborations and partnerships
* Other Promise City Research – A model steeped in research and data

**Hartford Promise Victories**

* Announcing 140 Promise Scholars this spring
* Deep partnership and alignment with the Superintendent’s strategic plan
* The Promise is inspirational, motivational, and tangible
* Financial Commitment (4 million)
* HP is a Good News Story…A Great News Story…and we need more of those today
* Leveraging the Promise Scholarship with additional college financial support
* Strong relationships with all 19 Hartford Public high schools
* Strong Board of Directors
* Helping Hartford become a “College Town”

**Challenges for Hartford Promise**

* Fundraising Needs
* City’s Financial Tsunami & Negative Psyche
* Academic Preparation