

# **The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Scholarship Deadline March 1**

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Scholarship Program enhances educational opportunities for eligible students who reside in Pennsylvania. The program is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. The program is administered by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (a 501(c)(3) community foundation) and uses the nowU Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program at the State Treasury Department to ensure that the scholarships keep pace with tuition inflation (nowU, formerly TAP 529, was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1992).

The program provides four-year scholarships to two high school seniors per year. Each award consists of the value of one semester of tuition at the State System of Higher Education for each of four years. Eligible educational institutions include nearly all colleges, universities, and career schools in Pennsylvania. Half of each annual award will be paid in the fall semester, and half in the spring semester. Students must maintain eligibility criteria in all four years in order to receive ongoing awards (see section IV).

Scholarship awards must be used for tuition & fees and books only. Each award disbursement will be paid jointly to the student and to the educational institution in order to ensure proper use of funds.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Graduating High School Senior
2. Legal residency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3. Attendance at a Pennsylvania college, university, or career school as a full-time student
4. Academic achievement (minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA in high school)
5. Commitment to community and demonstrated leadership qualities
6. Extracurricular activities
7. Financial need

*\*Children of legislators and their staff members are not eligible.*

## **How to Apply**

The application process is online.

*Before accessing the application, be prepared to attach the following items:*

1. Other Scholarship Information: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
2. Student Resume: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
3. Commitment to the Community & Leadership Skills: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
4. FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR): Please attach the report in its entirety. In addition to the SAR, you may also provide a letter with information you believe will be useful in determining your financial need (e.g., family and student income). Are there extenuating circumstances of which we should be aware? For example, illness in the family, loss of employment, or other relevant information?
5. Personal Essay: When the founders met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia to develop our nation's government, Ben Franklin remarked that the governmental system he helped to develop was a *republic* not a *democracy*. Discuss the difference between the two ideas of government and which one you believe characterizes our state's current system of governance. Essay should be titled, 500 words maximum, typewritten, 12 pt. font, double spaced.

*The following requirements must be mailed. They will not be accepted electronically.*

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1. Three (3) Personal Reference Letters. *At least one letter should be from a high school teacher on school letterhead.* Letters from family members will not be accepted. **References should be sealed in an envelope and should not be opened by the student. All reference letters must remain confidential.**
2. *Official* Transcript. Home schooled students should submit a detailed grade report.
3. Your guidance counselor must complete and sign the *Guidance Counselor Form*. [Click here](#) to download the form.
4. \$10 Processing Fee; checks only; made payable to *The Foundation for Enhancing Communities*. Processing fees do not fund the scholarships, but instead offset program administration costs. The scholarships are privately funded; no tax or other public funds are used.

**It is your responsibility** to ensure that these requirements are received by the deadline. They **must be received** by the deadline, **not postmarked**. Students are encouraged to mail all of these requirements together in one large envelope. Mail to:

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
PA House of Representatives Scholarship  
Attn: Jennifer Kuntch, Program Officer for Educational Enhancement  
200 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 678  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678

[Click here](#) to access the online application.

## **Renewability**

This scholarship will be automatically renewed for up to four (4) years provided the student remains a legal resident of Pennsylvania; remains enrolled as a full-time student at a Pennsylvania school; and maintains a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in the first year and a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale each subsequent year. Students must submit their official transcript and tuition bill, along with a note updating their progress **each semester** to The Foundation in order for their scholarship to be renewed.

## **Matching Award Opportunities**

*AES/PHEAA's PATH Program*: Scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by AES/PHEAA's *PATH ("Partnerships for Access to Higher Education") Program*. PHEAA may grant matching funds to scholarship recipients who are enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania college or career school, who are a state grant recipient and who demonstrate financial need. The match provides last-dollar support for tuition and fees. The scholarship recipient's information is submitted to PHEAA by TFEC staff. No additional work will be asked of the scholarship recipient. For more information regarding AES/PHEAA, please refer to their Web site at [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org).