



The Pennsylvania House of Representatives 2005 Scholarship Application Form

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Scholarship Program enhances educational opportunities for eligible students who reside in Pennsylvania. The program was established in 2004 to honor members of the House of Representatives who have served the Commonwealth with distinction. The program is privately funded by individual and corporate donors; no tax or other public funds are used. The program is administered by The Greater Harrisburg Foundation (a 501(c)(3) community foundation), and uses Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Plan (TAP 529) to ensure that the scholarships keep pace with tuition inflation (TAP 529 was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1992).

I. Scholarship Description

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. Students also may choose to accept the equivalent cash value of the scholarship (approximately \$2,400 for academic year 2004-2005) to attend any postsecondary "eligible educational institution," as defined by Sec. 529 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). 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 "qualified higher education expenses," as defined by IRC Sec. 529. This includes tuition, mandatory fees, required books and supplies, required equipment, room and board, and special needs services for special needs students. Each award disbursement will be paid jointly to the student and to the educational institution in order to ensure proper use of funds.

II. Matching Award Opportunities

AES/PHEAA's PATH Program: Scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched up to a dollar-for-dollar basis by AES/PHEAA's *PATH ("Partnerships for Access To Higher Education") Program*. PHEAA will grant matching funds to scholarship recipients who demonstrate unmet financial need, and who receive a Pennsylvania State Grant *and* a Federal Student Loan (\$100 minimum). The match provides last-dollar support for tuition, books and fees. Scholarship recipient information is submitted to PHEAA automatically.

SAGE Scholars Program: If scholarship recipients choose to attend one of the participating private college/universities in Pennsylvania listed on www.sagescholars.com, they also are eligible to receive tuition discounts equivalent to the value of the scholarship award. This non-cash tuition discount is available for each scholarship year. Over four years, the discount total cannot exceed one year's worth of tuition at the participating school.

III. Selection Criteria

Scholarship applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Legal residency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2. Attendance at a Pennsylvania college, university, or career school as a full-time student
3. Academic achievement (minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA in high school)
4. Commitment to community and demonstrated leadership qualities
5. Extracurricular activities
6. Personal essay (300 words maximum)
7. Financial need

IV. Continuing Eligibility Criteria

In order to receive ongoing awards in years two through four, the student must:

1. Remain a legal resident of Pennsylvania
2. Remain enrolled as a full-time student at a Pennsylvania school
3. Maintain a grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) of:
 - a. 2.5 in the first year
 - b. 3.0 in each subsequent year (years 2-4)

V. Application Requirements

Please submit the following:

- Completed Information Sheets and Resume (pages 3-5 attached)
- High School Transcript with numerical cumulative GPA (Home School students should submit detailed grade reports)
- FAFSA Student Aid Report Form (Financial Aid Form) www.FAFSA.ed.gov
- Completed Personal Essay
- 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, addressed to The Greater Harrisburg Foundation, and should not be opened by the student. All reference letters must remain confidential.**
- \$10 processing fee (checks only), made payable to The Greater Harrisburg Foundation. 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.

Please return your completed application to:

The Greater Harrisburg Foundation
200 N. Third Street, P.O. Box 678
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678
Attn: PA House of Representatives Scholarship

Your completed application must be postmarked on or before April 15. Late applications, or those with missing or incomplete requirements, may be disqualified. The Greater Harrisburg Foundation will evaluate all applications and may choose to interview the finalists. Applicants will be notified after May 30 regarding selection results.

Please direct questions to:

Dawn Morris, Scholarship & Program Associate
(717) 236-5040
email: dawn@ghf.org

PA House of Representatives Scholarship Application 2005

Student Information

Note: Your applicant information will remain confidential and will not be shared with any person or organization not affiliated with this scholarship program.

Full Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State Zip

Telephone: () Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Name of Principal: _____ School Phone: () _____

Postsecondary School You'll Most Likely Attend: _____

Total Annual Cost (tuition, books, room, board, etc.): \$ _____

Expected Entrance Date: _____ Full-time? _____

Other Scholarships Already Received: _____

Academic Record

Please attach an official transcript of your complete high school record through the first half of the present school year, with the raised school seal imprinted and including a cumulative grade point average. Home school applicants should attach a grade report with as much detail as possible.

High School Principal's Signature (required) _____

PA House of Representatives Scholarship Application 2005 Student Resume

Applicant Name

Social Security Number

EDUCATION

Name of High School

Graduation Date

Number of Credits Earned

Grade Point Average

Class Rank

SAT and/or ACT Scores

WORK EXPERIENCE

Name of Employer (1)

Dates Worked

Description of Responsibilities

Name of Employer (2)

Dates Worked

Description of Responsibilities

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Name of Organization

Dates Worked

Description of Responsibilities

How many hours did you work for this organization (total or per week)?

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Clubs

Activities

Interests

Additional Pages May Be Attached

PA House of Representatives Scholarship Application 2005 Parent/Guardian Information

Applicant Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Mother/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State Zip

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Father/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State Zip

Employer: _____ Position: _____

Financial Need

Please attach the FAFSA Student Aid Report (available at www.FAFSA.ed.gov). Please make sure to include the Cover Letter of the report, which will indicate your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is not listed on the electronic application that you submit to FAFSA and is critical in determining financial need.

Personal Essay

Please attach an essay that is typewritten in 12-point font, double-spaced and a maximum of 300 words. Your essay should reflect upon the following statement: "The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is (or is not) the voice of the people." There are no wrong answers, and your essay will be evaluated based upon the quality of your argument.

Signatures

We attest that this completed application is truthful and accurate.

Student: _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____