



2026 Student Scholarships & Awards

The primary goal for the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation's (MCPSEF) Student Scholarships & Awards is to fund students who are passionate about pursuing educational goals, & face opportunity gaps in achieving those goals.

Opportunities from \$250 - \$20,000!

Apply Today!

See if there is an opportunity for you! Apply for all opportunities through just one application.
Nov. 1, 2025 - Jan. 20, 2026



Key Application Components

- Student information
- Activities
- Personal essay
- Post-secondary education plans
- Assessment of financial need through submission of **just one** of the following items.
 - 2024 U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 1040 (first two pages only)
 - Current enrollment in Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) program (MCPS Action-Taken Notice or Meal Benefit Notification)

Contact Us

240-740-3216 | ed_foundation@mcpsmd.org | www.mcpsfoundation.org/scholarships

Opportunity List & Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for any of our student scholarships & awards, you must:

- Be an MCPS senior.
- Graduate with class of 2026.
- Plan to pursue education or training after high school graduation.
- Meet the additional criteria for at least one opportunity below.

Ruth & Norman Rales-Patricia Baier O'Neill Scholarship Recognizing Academic Excellence

For scholars with financial need who are committed to community service & have a WGPA of 4.75+.

This opportunity honors Ruth & Norman Rales & their spirit of giving, as well as the late Patricia Baier O'Neill & her legacy as the longest-serving member of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$10,000 • Annual installments • Payment to school or student	-	Demonstrated through just one of the following: • 2024 household adjusted gross income of \$140,837 or less • Current FARMS enrollment	WGPA 4.75+	Commitment to community service	Tuition, books, &/or other necessities, including technology, transportation, & special educational experiences

Begelman, James Cafritz, & Paul Vance Scholarships

For students with high financial need & commitment to community service.

These opportunities are made possible by donations from Arlene & Robert Begelman; in memory of Dr. Paul Vance, MCPS' first Black superintendent who worked to eliminate barriers to student success; & from James Cafritz, a longtime MCPSEF supporter.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$6,000 - \$10,000 • Single payment or annual installments • Payment to school	-	Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals program (FARMS)	-	Just one must be true: • Plan to teach at MCPS • Plan to pursue career & technical education after high school • 1st-generation student: plan to complete 4-year college or university degree, but your parents did not Commitment to community service	Tuition, books, &/or other necessary educational expenses & materials, including computers

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Cesar Pie Cyber Defender Scholarship

For students pursuing post-secondary studies & a career cybersecurity to address talent & diversity shortages in the field.

The donor is CSIOS Corporation, an award-winning, Maryland-based, & veteran-owned business provider of cyberspace operations & cybersecurity services. The opportunity is in honor of CSIOS' Chairman, President, & CEO Cesar Pie.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$10,000 • Single payment or annual installments • Payment to school or student	Any	-	-	• Any college, university, or career & technical education site • Plan to pursue computer & information sciences in cybersecurity	Tuition, books, &/or other necessary educational expenses & materials, including computers

Elise M. Lavidor Book Award

For students at Rockville High School who attended Meadow Hall Elementary School with financial need.

This award is in memory of Elise Lavidor, a graduate of Boston University & lifelong educator. Ms. Lavidor was a teacher in public schools across the country & volunteer at Meadow Hall Elementary School.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$500 • Single payment • Payment to school or student	Rockville High & Meadow Hall Elementary Schools	Required	2.75+	Any college or university	Tuition, books, &/or other necessary educational expenses & materials, including computers

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Gilles Driesman Scholarship

For students pursuing a career in construction.

The opportunity is in memory of Gilles Driesman, who emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada as a child, ending his education at elementary school to work on the family farm. He built his family homes & ran farm & landscaping equipment small businesses.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$5,000 • Single payment or annual installments • Payment to school or student	-	-	2.00+	Pursuing education or training in construction	Materials for career or educational path, such as tools; educational & skill-building opportunities, including certifications, trainings, & tuition; living expenses

Janet Carroll Merit Scholarship

For scholars with financial need, who are committed to community service, who have excellent academic standing, & who plan to attend Towson or Villanova University.

This opportunity is in honor of Janet Carroll, a dedicated MCPS teacher, & proud alumna of Villanova University.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$2,500 • Single payment • Payment to school or student	-	Required	Excellent academic standing	• Attend Towson or Villanova University, with a preference for Villanova University • Commitment to community service	Tuition, books, &/or other necessary educational expenses & materials, including computers

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Joy Odom Mathematics Scholarship

For girls planning to pursue a degree at a four-year college/university in a math-based discipline.

The opportunity is in memory of Joy Odom, former head of mathematics at John F. Kennedy High School.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$1,500 • Single payment • Payment to school	John F. Kennedy High School	Required	3.0+	• Open to girls • Plan to pursue 4-year college/university degree in math-related discipline • Have completed advanced math	Tuition, books, &/or other necessary educational expenses & materials, including computers

Wilma Watkins Ulmer Memorial Scholarship

For Gaithersburg High School Students with financial need planning to pursue degrees at four-year colleges/universities.

This opportunity is in memory of Wilma Watkins Ulmer, a Gaithersburg High School graduate who returned to Gaithersburg High School to be a teacher & vice principal.

Payments	School	Financial Need	GPA	Other Requirements & Preferences	Allowable Expenses
• Total: \$20,000 • Annual installments • Payments to school	Gaithersburg High School	Required	2.80+	• 4-year college or university	Room & board, tuition, & books & other necessary educational materials, including computers

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