

College and Career
Pathways Department



Scholarship Tips & Exploration

Paying for College



What is a scholarship?



Where do scholarships come from?

- ✓ The academic institution (college/university)
- ✓ Community organizations/businesses
- ✓ Private sponsors/donors

What kinds of scholarships are available?

- ✓ **Merit - Based:** academic, athletic, artistic, or other abilities
- ✓ **Need - Based:** financial need
- ✓ **Student - Specific:** ethnicity, gender, religion, etc.
- ✓ **Career - Specific:** interests and career plans
- ✓ **Unusual criteria:** left-handed



Begin your search early

Find and apply for as many scholarships as you can!



How do I find scholarships?

Look locally:

- high school counselor
- family, friends
- your employer or your parents' employers
- non-profit agencies
- religious organizations
- professional groups related to your field of interest.

Klein ISD E-Scholarship USA

www.collegeguidanceconsultants.com

Enter User Name & Password

(Contact the counseling office)

- List sorted by due date
- Search for specific types
- Titles directly link to scholarship site



www.fastweb.com

- Free scholarship database, largest, most accurate, frequent updates
- Local, national and college-specific
- Search and compare college profiles
- Requires User ID and Password you create

Scholarship Search Sites

- [Big Future by The College Board](#)
- [College Greenlight](#)
- [Fast Web](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Scholly](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [StudentScholarshipSearch.com](#)
- [FinAid.org](#)

Federal Resources

The following websites provide important information for obtaining scholarships and grants through the federal government:

www.careeronestop.org

www.Fafsa.gov

www.StudentAid.gov/scholarships

www.NationalService.gov

www.HHS.gov

www.VA.gov

How do I apply for scholarships?

- Each scholarship has its own requirements; check scholarship's website for details
- Make sure you read the application carefully, fill it out completely, and meet the application deadline.

Get Organized

- Gather scholarship materials
- Transcripts
- Standardized test scores
- Tax returns and financial information
- Financial aid forms
- Essays
- Letters of recommendation
- Proof of eligibility

Preparing an Application

- Follow directions
- List all activities and honors
- Neatness and grammar count
- Make a copy
- Meeting deadlines is crucial
- Choose references that know you well
- Proof your application and/or essay

Tips for Writing an Essay



- Give yourself time.
- Follow directions.
- Focus on the topic.

Writing the Essay

Prepare to answer questions on a variety of topics:

- *Academic plans*
- *Current events and social issues*
- *Personal history*
- *Achievements*
- *Future plans*

Top 10 things scholarship committees look at:

1. *An application submitted on time*
2. *General qualification, criteria, and completeness*
3. *Community volunteer involvement*
4. *Leadership & Personal Development*
5. *Extracurricular Activities*
6. *Applicant's personal situation*
7. *The Essay*
8. *References & Recommendations*
9. *Grade Point Average (GPA)*
10. *SAT & ACT Scores*

Other Scholarship Application Tips

- Use a professional email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com
- Clean up the content of your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material
- Google your name to see what shows up
- Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it
- Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation
- If rejected, ask for the reviewer comments

Avoiding Scholarship Scams

- Read the fine print
- Understand the terms and conditions
- Beware of “guarantees”
- Protect personal information
- Learn more at the scholarship scams website: Federal Trade Commission

<http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>

Campus–Scholarship Information

Go to the campus webpage for *Counseling* and click on the link *Scholarships and Financial Aid*.

- *Database of scholarships*
- *Monthly bulletins, newsletters*
- *Presentation PowerPoints*

Klein ISD Financial Aid Resources

www.promise2purpose.net



PROMISE2PURPOSE Pathways

In Klein ISD, every student enters with a promise and exits with a purpose.

Graduation Pathways

Specialized HS/College Pathways

Advanced Courses

Resources/Events

Certifications