

All About Scholarships



Finding ways to pay for college
Kimberly Shaw
Elgin Community College District

Illinois Student Assistance Corps

“Making college accessible and affordable for all Illinois students.”

- Mission Statement

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is the financial aid agency in the state of Illinois. We are a mission-driven, non-profit, state agency that administers nearly \$400 million in scholarships and grants. Illinois has set a goal to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

Illinois Student Assistance Corps

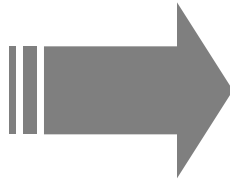
- Approximately 80 Corps members from diverse backgrounds
- Every community in Illinois
- Changing the conversation about higher education



Overview

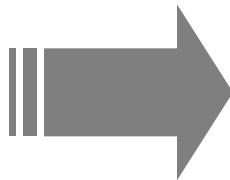
- The difference between scholarships and grants
- Scholarship sources
- What elements are included in an application
- How to search for and apply for scholarships

Types of Financial Aid



Grants – *need based*

Scholarships – *merit based*



Work-Study

Loans

The 411 on Scholarships...

- Financial aid applied to expenses associated with attending school (i.e., books and supplies, tuition and fees, miscellaneous living expenses)
- Be sure to follow up with your scholarship organization for concrete rules and details.

Scholarship Sources

Institutional
(Colleges and Universities)



Universities/colleges offer various scholarships that come from the institution itself and from academic departments within the schools

Other Organizations



Local, state, or national

Examples:
(insert local example from your area)
State – Minority Teachers of Illinois
National – Coca-Cola

Why are Scholarships Important?

2014-15 Average Annual Illinois Tuition and Fees

- Public Universities \$11,880
- Private Colleges and Universities \$27,490
- Community Colleges \$3,731

Over \$1.5 billion award in MAP & PELL alone!!!

Framing the Value of Scholarships

- Your time can be worth some BIG money:

Spend four hours on \$1,000 scholarship application

4 hours of work = \$250 per hour

- Apply for as many as you can
 - You might be exactly what they are looking for!
 - You might be the only applicant!

Application Elements May Include...

- General information
 - Demographics
 - Extra-curricular activities; level of involvement
 - Area of intended study
 - Financial need
 - Letters of recommendation
- Academic record (ex: GPA, transcripts)
- Essays/Personal statements
- Additional elements (ex: interviews, auditions, portfolios)

As you Search for Scholarships, Remember...

- Start early
- Apply to as many as possible
- Keep track of deadlines
- Proofread!!
- Submit **all** required documents
- No amount is too small – this is FREE money!

Finding Scholarships

- College web sites and Financial Aid Offices
- High school web site and school counselor
- Community centers and churches
- Employer (parent's and student's)
- Search engines
 - cappex.com/ISAC
 - fastweb.com
 - scholarships.com
 - petersons.com/finaid
 - collegescholarships.org
 - studentportal.isac.org
 - studentaid.gov (Types of Aid)

FAFSA's Role in Scholarships

- First step in applying for financial aid
- Takes about 30 minutes to complete
- FREE at www.FAFSA.gov
- Required for some scholarships – make sure you check scholarship requirements

What Can I Do Now?

- Create a college planning calendar
- Begin looking for scholarships
- Go on college tours/visits (consider virtual tours)
- Ask questions
- Check in with your school counselor

Action Items

- Now that we laid down some groundwork on scholarships, here is an opportunity to create a “mini” resume to help with your scholarship search!
- Remember, nothing is too big or too small to be considered!

Additional Resources

www.studentportal.isac.org



www.isac.org



www.studentaid.gov



<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>

<https://www.unigo.com/>

<http://jlvcollegecounseling.com/resources/scholarships-lists/>

BHS Resources

- Bartlett High School Website

Home About Us Academics Athletics Students Parents Administration

Guidance

Welcome to the Bartlett High School Guidance website!

We have created this site to better meet the needs of Bartlett High School parents and staff members. Click on any of the topics in the boxes to the right for more detailed information. Should you need additional information or resources, feel free to contact the Guidance Department. [Guidance Staff is listed here.](#)

The Bartlett High School Guidance Department focuses on the following domains:

- Academic
- College and Career Planning
- Social/Emotional

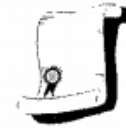
Counselors will meet with students at various times throughout the year. However, students are welcome to make an appointment with their assigned counselor whenever necessary. In order to set up an appointment a student may stop by and place his or her name on that counselor's individual sign up sheet, which is conveniently located on the front counter of the Guidance Department. Parents may call the counselor's direct number to schedule an appointment, leave a message, or ask a question. [A list of Guidance Staff is available here.](#)

BHS Resources

- Weekly Scholarship bulletin



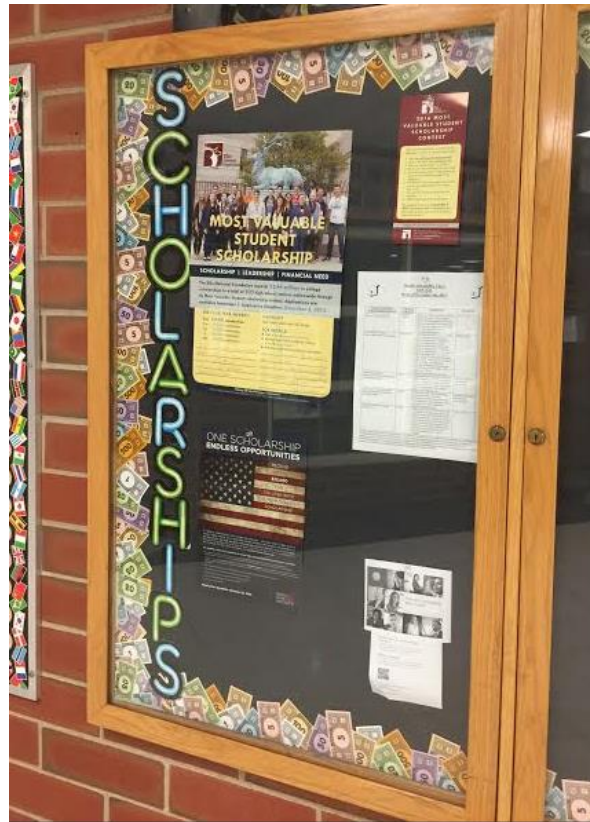
Weekly Scholarship Chart
2015-2016
Week of November 9th, 2015



<u>NAME OF SPONSOR & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM</u>	<u>SCHOLAR. AMOUNT</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
Black Women's Association Northwest Suburban Chapter	Minimum \$1,000	High school senior of African-American descent who has 2.5 GPA or higher, exhibits sound character and leadership qualities, community involvement, and participates in extracurricular activities. Two essays and two letters of recommendation required.	Dec. 1, 2015
Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship	Amounts vary	High school senior who is a U.S. citizen and in need of financial assistance. Academic performance, employment history, community service, and extracurricular activities considered. Essay and letters of recommendation required. Applications must be mailed to Elgin Elks Lodge #737, P.O. Box 52, Elgin. 60120 or 2353 Knollwood Drive.	Dec. 4, 2015

BHS Resources

- Scholarship Board (across from Guidance Office)



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