



Pinellas Education Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for a scholarship?

Any senior student who attends any Pinellas County Public High School.

How do I apply for a scholarship with the Pinellas Education Foundation?

You will need to complete one online scholarship application. To start an application, go to the Scholarships tab, click on "register". You will create a user name (your email) and a password to start the application. The first step includes completion of a demographic page and then click on the scholarship category for the remainder of the application. You will be able to save the application and come back later to complete it. Once you have finished your application, a list of eligible scholarships will appear.

Who makes the decision on the applications?

Donors and their committees review your application. They receive applications based on their criteria for eligibility.

Will I be notified if I do not receive a scholarship?

No. Only awarded students are notified.

How much money is awarded?

The range is between \$500 and \$5,000. Some scholarships are "multi-year" or renewable over a four-year period.

How do I know if I am getting a scholarship?

You will receive an email from Pinellas Education Foundation. You will need to complete an acceptance form and mail it back with a thank you letter addressed to the sponsor. You may use email, mail or hand delivery to: The Pinellas Education Foundation, 12090 Starkey Road, Largo, FL 33773, susan.al-abed@pinellaseducation.org.

Why do I need to write a thank you letter to my scholarship donor?

The companies and individuals who donate to the Foundations' Scholarship Program are doing so because they believe in education. They can contribute to many other causes, however they chose to help the students of Pinellas County further their education. It is very important to thank them for their support.

How do I receive funds?

All requested documentation must be received by the foundation before a check request is submitted. Funds are distributed directly to your college the first week of August. It is the expectation that students will be attending the **fall school term**. Funds are not sent to students.

What can the funds be used for?

The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, books, room and board, or anything that is a billable item through the school.

When are funds received?

Funds are sent the first week of August. It is the expectation that students will be attending the **fall school term**.

Are funds sent by semester?

No. The Pinellas Education Foundation sends the school the entire award amount in August.

What if I change schools between semesters?

You must send a written letter showing your withdrawal from that school and indicate your new school. You must request a refund from your current school as a withdrawn student. Once we receive the unused portion of the scholarship, we will then issue it to the new school.

What if I do not complete the withdrawal process and notify Pinellas Education Foundation?

You will forfeit any unused scholarship monies.

What if my school says they did not receive funds?

Please allow two to three weeks from the check date so the school has time to process the check and put it in your student account. If they still say they do not have the funds, please email you name, name of scholarship, the school and the last four digits of your Social Security number to susan.al-abed@pinellaseducation.org. We will respond via email with the check number and check date. Once the school deposits your check, it is your responsibility to continue working with the school to verify and locate funds.

My scholarship is renewable, what does that mean and how do I renew it?

A renewable scholarship means that the sponsor has decided based on your application that it is possible they will fund additional years of college. You are required to submit by **July 15th** of each year the following:

1. **Official transcript** from college showing that you have maintained a minimum 3.0 grade point average and been a full time student (12 credit hours)
2. **A thank you letter to the donor**
3. Your **fall course schedule**. The letter and course schedule may be emailed to Susan Al-Abed at susan.al-abed@pinellaseducation.org.

How do I know if it has been accepted and renewed?

You will receive an email from Susan Al-Abed advising you on the status of the renewal.

Are all scholarships renewable?

No. When you receive the original acceptance letter, it states whether it is a renewable scholarship or not.