



2026 Scholarship Program



EDUCATION OPENS EVERY DOOR

PLEASE POSTMARK BY MAY 15, 2026

Official Application Form

INTRODUCTION

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AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Program

There's a reason AFSCME New Jersey stands strong at every bargaining table, in every community, and across every public workplace in this state. It's because our union is built by dedicated, passionate public service workers who show up every day for New Jersey's families. For generations, AFSCME members have fought to make sure working people have a real voice, on the job, in Trenton, and in shaping a future where every family can thrive.

AFSCME has always believed in investing in the next generation. Our victories weren't handed to us; they were won by members who refused to accept anything less than dignity, fairness, and opportunity. And with every gain we make, we believe it's our responsibility to pay it forward.

That's the spirit behind the AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Program. These scholarships exist to support the children and dependents of AFSCME members, to help ease the rising cost of college or vocational training, and to open doors for the next generation of leaders in our communities. It's an investment in the future of working-class families, the same families who keep New Jersey running every single day.

We're proud to recognize the commitment AFSCME families bring to their neighborhoods, their schools, and their workplaces. And we're honored to help the next generation take their next steps with confidence. Thank you for your interest in the AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Program. We look forward to reading your application, and to seeing where your journey takes you.

In Solidarity,

AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 Scholarship Committee

INSTRUCTIONS

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Scholarship Award Amounts:

Since 2020 AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 has awarded nearly 150 scholarships to our members. The scholarship is a one-time cash award.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants must have/ be one of the following:

- AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 member
- Children of an AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 member
- Current college/ university student of an active AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 member
- Graduating HS Senior of an AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 member

How to Apply:

Please fill out the enclosed application, both the student section and the member section, and submit the 500-word essay.

Essays should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59pm on Friday, May 15th, 2026 to:
Scholarships@afscmenj.org

Or Postmarked by Friday, May 15th, 2026 to:

AFSCME New Jersey Council 63
C/O AFSCME New Jersey Council 63 Scholarship Committee
2653A Whitehorse Hamilton Square Road
Hamilton, NJ 08690

ESSAY PROMPT:

- Please describe the role that you think unions play in preserving public services for the people of New Jersey.

To be eligible all essays must be accompanied by the applicant's most current transcript and/ or acceptance letter.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

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(Please print in black ink or type.)

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Graduation Date _____ 20 _____

What activities did/do you participate in at your high school? _____

List any offices held or honors received in these activities. _____

List any academic honors that you have received. _____

List universities or colleges you have been accepted to, attend, or applied to for acceptance.

Signature _____ Date _____

All essays written as part of the AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship application process become the property of AFSCME New Jersey. AFSCME New Jersey retains the right to reprint some or all of the winning essays on the AFSCME New Jersey website or in other union publications and to identify the authors of the winning essays. AFSCME New Jersey also reserves the right to reprint, describe or excerpt these essays in other publications or to assign that right to others.

Signature _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR FINANCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE GRANDPARENT WHO IS A FULL DUES PAYING AFSCME MEMBER.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Work Phone (_____) _____

AFSCME Council 63 Local Number _____ Retiree Chapter _____

AFSCME Member ID# _____ (this is an 8-digit number, beginning with "1")

Check one: Parent Legal Guardian Financially-Responsible Grandparent

TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL

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Dear School Representative:

This student is an applicant for an AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship. As an aid in the selection process it is necessary that the AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Selection Committee receive information regarding the student's character, ability and performance sought in this section. The information will be used only by the AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Selection Committee of recognized academic, professional and community representatives. It is important that this section be completed and returned to the applicant so that they have sufficient time to submit their entire application postmarked no later than **MARCH 31**.

(Please print in black ink or type.)

Applicant's Name _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Who is rating the student? Name _____

Relationship _____ (e.g., principal, teacher, counselor) Length of relationship? _____

What is your general evaluation of this student?

Sometimes special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement record and test scores.

Please specify: _____

Other comments: _____

Please include any Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT) scores (Optional). _____

GPA _____ Class Size _____ Class Ranking _____

Please attach a transcript of the student's grades. Include an explanation of the grading system used.

Signature _____ Date _____

THE AFSCME FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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The AFSCME New Jersey Scholarship Program is an ongoing program of scholarships available to children and financially-dependent grandchildren of full dues-paying AFSCME New Jersey members. Ten scholarships of \$2,000 each are awarded annually to the winners selected from applicants who meet eligibility requirements. Once awarded, the scholarships will be renewed for \$2,000 each year for a maximum of four years, provided the student remains enrolled in a full-time course of study.

To be eligible for a scholarship the student must:

- Be a graduating high school senior who is the child of a full dues-paying AFSCME member or whose legal guardian or financially-responsible grandparent is a full dues-paying AFSCME member;
- At the time the scholarship is awarded, be accepted into a full-time degree program either at an accredited four-year institution or a two-year institution that will transfer credits to a four-year institution; and

AFSCME has adopted a test-optional policy. SAT or ACT results are not required, but may be considered.

- (See page 3).

The scholarship may be used for any field of study.

HOW WILL THE SELECTION BE MADE?

The Scholarship Committee, will thoroughly examine all the application materials submitted by each scholarship applicant. In addition to the Official Application Form, the applicant's essay and the high school transcript, this independent selection committee will carefully consider any recommendations or other evidence (e.g., SAT or ACT results, high school activities or academic honors) of the applicant's character and abilities.

Based on the record of each applicant, the selection committee will then choose the scholarship recipients and announce the winners by **JUNE 15**. Every applicant will be notified in writing of the outcome of the selection process.

The decision of the selection committee is final.

