



FAQ For Student Selected by Board to Apply For The Missouri School Boards' Association Student Scholarship (John T. Belcher Scholarship)

What is the Missouri School Boards' Association Student Scholarship?

Each year the Missouri School Boards' Association's Foundation (FutureBuilders) awards \$18,500 in scholarships to students in MSBA's member districts. A winner is selected from each of the 17 MSBA Regions and one overall State Winner is selected. Each regional winner receives a \$1000 scholarship and is automatically eligible to compete for the statewide winner who receives an additional \$1500. The scholarship is non-renewable.

Who is eligible to apply?

The school board of each MSBA member district is eligible to nominate one high school senior to apply.

Are K-8 school districts allowed to submit applications for high school seniors who attended their district?

Yes, if the K-8 school district is a member of Missouri School Boards' Association, they may select a current senior who attended their district prior to high school.

How does the local board select its applicant?

The process for the selection of the applicant is a local decision. Some boards ask students to submit an application; write an essay; and/or be nominated by a school counselor. The local board may use any or all parts of the official MSBA scholarship application in its process.

The deadline for selecting the applicant is December 20, 2024. This means the board must select the applicant at one of its fall meetings (September-December, 2024). Please see the question about Important Dates below.

What do the local boards need to do once their student applicant is chosen?

Once the board selects its applicant, the contact information for the student should be sent to Caitlin Whaley at MSBA (whaley@mosba.org). Please include the **student's personal email address**. Often times the school district student's email address is protected from outside emails.

How does the student applicant submit their application?

Once MSBA receives the contact information for the student applicant, MSBA will send a secure link that will take the student to the Kaleidoscope Scholarship Management site and they will complete the application online. **Only online applications will be accepted.**

What is included in the application?

The application contains three parts.

- A series of questions regarding the student's academic progress and future goals.
- A copy of the most current transcript (more than likely, the transcript will reflect the student's 9th-11th grade information)
- A 500-700 word essay on one of three prompts. Each essay will be evaluated for its authenticity using AI (Artificial Intelligence) software.

How are the scholarship applications evaluated?

Each of the 17 MSBA Regions is represented by a Regional Executive Committee composed of board members from local area schools. Using the Missouri Student Scholarship (John T. Belcher) Rubrics, the members of these Committees will select one Regional Winner.

How will students be notified if they have been selected to receive the scholarship?

All applicants will be notified, both winners and non-winners, by MSBA via email. The superintendent, board president, board secretary and school counselor will be included in the notification.

How will the State Winner be selected?

All 17 of the Regional Winners are eligible to be considered for being selected as the State Winner. Each Regional Winner's application will be evaluated by the members of the MSBA's Foundation using the same rubrics used in selecting the Regional Winners.

How will the Regional Winners be recognized?

Each Regional Winner will be recognized at a local board meeting in the spring. A representative from the Regional Executive Committee will present a certificate to the student.

How will the State Winner be recognized?

The State Winner will be recognized at an awards luncheon at the MSBA Summer Summit in June, 2024.

How will the winners receive their scholarship monies?

The Kaleidoscope Scholarship Management Company will disperse the monies directly to the students' selected institutions of higher education.

Who do I contact with any questions or concerns?

Please contact Caitlin Whaley (whaley@mosba.org) or 573-507-3960.

What are the important due dates for the MSBA Student Scholarship process?

Action	Due Date	Notes
Selection of student applicant by local board	December 20, 2024	No extensions will be given
Send contact information of applicant to Caitlin Whaley	December 20, 2024	Please include student's personal email address
Completion of applications	January 21, 2025	All three parts must be completed using online application
Scoring of applications	February, 2025	Conducted by board members in each region
Notification of Regional Winners	Early March, 2025	All applicants will be notified, including non-winners
Recognition of Regional Winners by local board of education	March/April, 2025	Date will be scheduled with superintendent
Scoring for State Winner	April, 2025	Conducted by selected board members across the state
Notification of State Winner	Late April, 2025	
Recognition of State Winner	June, 2025	At MSBA Summer Summit

What are the components of the application?

MSBA Student Scholarship (John T. Belcher) Application for 2024-2025

INFORMTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

ONLY ONLINE SUBMISSIONS COMPLETED THROUGH THE KALEIDOSCOPE SCHOLARSHIP SITE ARE ACCEPTED

Student Information

- Name (Last, First, Middle)
- Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
- Phone Number:
- **Personal** Email Address
- Date of Birth

Parent/Guardian Information

- Name of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)
- Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
- Phone Number:
- Email Address:

School District Information

- Have you been officially nominated by your local school board?
- Name of School District
- Is this District a K-12 or K-8 District?
- Name of High School:
- Name of School Counselor
- School Counselor's Phone Number:
- School Counselor Email

Academic Achievement

- What is the GPA Scale used by your school district?
- If your district uses an unweighted GPA Scale, what was your overall unweighted GPA at the end of your junior year?
- If your school district uses a weighted GPS, what was your overall weighted GPA at the end of your junior year?
- Does your school offer the following types of course offerings and, if so, what grade levels are eligible to enroll in the courses?
 - Honors Level Courses
 - Advanced Placement Courses
 - International Baccalaureate Course
 - Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Courses
- List any honors level, advanced placement, international baccalaureate courses or dual credit/enrollment courses you have completed and your final course grades and/or assessment scores.
- Please provide your composite score for the ACT and/or SAT

Activities/Leadership

- Please list your involvement in high school level extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, including any leadership roles.

Leadership and Honors

- Please list any school-related leadership roles you have held during high school.
- Please list any school-related honors or recognitions you have received during high school

Community Involvement

- Please list any out-of-school organizations/activities in which you participate including community service activities as well as any offices you've held, or honors received.

Academic/Career Goals

- What are your personal academic and career goals? (Look at rubric)

Financial Information

- If you have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have received your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number, please enter it.
- How many people are in your household?
- How many are dependents?
- How many dependents are currently enrolled in higher education institutions or programs?
- Are there any special financial circumstances that impact your family's ability to contribute to your education expenses (e.g. medical expenses, caring for elderly relatives, etc.)?.
- Have you applied for other scholarships or financial aid programs? If so, what aid have you received or been awarded?

Essay

- **Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on ONE of the following prompts:**
 - The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
 - Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
 - Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Transcript

Please attach a copy of your current transcript.