



Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee

December 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, Senate Room A, Room 305

brownscholarship.virginia.gov

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee (the Committee) met in Richmond with Senator Mamie E. Locke, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions, welcome of new members Dr. Barbara Inman, Geneda Kearney, and Cameron Patterson, and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Committee's meetings webpage](#).

Updates on the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program

Lily Jones, Legislative Projects Manager, Division of Legislative Services

The meeting began with staff providing a brief overview of the history of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program for the new committee members. Ms. Jones then provided the Committee with status updates on the congressionally directed spending grant request and the expansion of the Brown v. Board Education Scholarship.

At its last meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner in support of an application for a congressionally directed spending grant which was submitted by Ken Woodley. Senators Kaine and Warner have included a request for \$500,000 in funding for the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Fund among their congressionally directed spending asks for government funding consideration.

2024-2025 Scholarship Expansion

At its last meeting, the Committee discussed the future of the scholarship fund in relation to the passage of HB 1419 (Kory, 2023) and identical SB 1498 (McClellan, 2023). These bills expanded the eligibility for the scholarship program to descendants of anyone who was eligible for the scholarship under the original criteria. HB 1419 and SB 1498 include "lineal and collateral" descendants in the definition of "eligible student" for the purposes of the scholarship program, which includes children and grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews of any generation.

The Committee first discussed whether the scholarship fund should cap the number of new students it accepts into the program and cap the amount disbursed per student. Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi offered that the Committee cap the number of new students at 10 students per year at \$10,000 per student. Delegate Candi Mundon King echoed Senator Hashmi's sentiments, stating that she wanted to be sure the Committee honors the commitment to those original students who were directly impacted. The Committee unanimously voted to cap the number of new students at 10 students per year at \$10,000 per student.

¹ **Members Present:** Senator Mamie E. Locke (chair), Delegate Candi Mundon King (vice-chair), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Angelia Williams Graves, Geneda Kearney, Dr. Barbara Inman, Cameron Patterson

Members Absent: Delegate Chris Runion, Joy Cabarrus Speakes, Robert Hamlin

The next topic of discussion was which prioritization criteria to use when determining scholarship eligibility. Senator Hashmi recommended that the Committee prioritize criteria based on the degree of relationship to the directly affected individual, serving lineal relationships first and collateral relationships second. Delegate Williams Graves moved to prioritize criteria based on need and degree of relationship. Senator Hashmi expressed that need-based criteria may disenfranchise applicants who may want to pursue certain select majors. The Committee unanimously voted to prioritize applications based on the degree of relationship to the directly affected individuals, and not on the basis of need.

The Committee moved to authorize staff to advertise the scholarship program and for the chair to approve final policies and applications.

The Committee agreed the scholarship application window will be from January 15 to April 12, 2024, with the Committee meeting in mid-May to decide on awardees.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee will be scheduled after the adjournment of the 2024 Session of the General Assembly.

For more information, see the [Committee's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

Lily Jones, Legislative Projects Manager, DLS
ljones@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1888

Lauren Waller, Research Associate, DLS
lwaller@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1834

