



Brown v. Board of Education
**SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to § 30-231.01 et seq., Code of Virginia

2023–2024 Application Packet

Deadline for Applications:

Postmark by March 31, 2023

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

FACT SHEET

The Historical Setting

State laws before the Civil War prohibited the education of African Americans, and the majority of African Americans that learned to read did so illegally. After Reconstruction, a system of laws, known as "Jim Crow," were enacted to continue the rigid system of segregation that pervaded every area of society, including public accommodations, schools, housing, employment, restaurants, religious affiliations, health care services, the criminal justice system, and transportation. This separation of the races was upheld under the doctrine of "separate but equal," by the United States Supreme Court in 1896 in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537. It was an era in which a set of unwritten social rules was imposed, requiring African Americans to be deferential to whites at all times. Beginning in 1915, a series of decisions questioning the constitutionality of segregation in institutions of higher education were heard in state and federal courts. Until this time, the doctrine of "separate but equal" had remained unchallenged for nearly 50 years.

***Brown v. Board of Education*: Virginia's Role**

Throughout the Commonwealth, the education available for African American students, including curriculum, textbooks and equipment, bus transportation, and school buildings, was grossly inferior to the public education afforded white students. Robert Russa Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Virginia, built in 1939 for African American children, was inadequate and overcrowded from the start. Unlike Farmville High School, which white students attended, Moton had no gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium with fixed seats, locker rooms, or infirmary. As the enrollment at the school continued to grow, the county built temporary "tarpaper shacks"—outbuildings made of wood, covered in tarpaper, and heated with a single stove—which were invariably leaky and chilly.

Parents, students, and PTA members were greatly disturbed by the inequities in public education and the gross inadequacies at Moton School, and tried to work through the all-white school board to bring about change. However, the school board was extremely unresponsive to their request for a new school and other improvements. Frustrated by the lack of progress and angry at the disparity between high schools for African American and white students, on April 23, 1951, students at the Robert Russa Moton High School, led by Barbara Johns and John and Carrie Stokes, staged a strike. Students either remained on school grounds and carried picket signs, or sat at their desks with books unopened, not participating in lessons, while the strike committee sought to meet with the Prince Edward County school superintendent and other officials. Those meetings were futile. The students also asked to meet with NAACP lawyers from Richmond. The student-led strike resulted in the case known as *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, 103 F. Supp. 337 (1952), one of five cases consolidated as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), that challenged the doctrine of "separate but equal" as unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The facts in the Virginia case provided the inspiration and legal basis upon which *Brown v. Board of Education* was argued before the Supreme Court.

Sixty-five years ago on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, that the "separate but equal" doctrine adopted in *Plessy v. Ferguson* was unconstitutional. This historic decision struck the death blow to the era of Jim Crow and legally sanctioned segregation throughout American society. However, states were slow to desegregate public schools. Due to state resistance, the Supreme Court set guidelines for dismantling segregation without deadlines in a separate decision in 1955, known as *Brown II*, which contained the famous phrase "with all deliberate speed."

Virginia's Response

Despite the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown* that school segregation was unconstitutional, public schools in Virginia did not immediately begin to desegregate. In fact, all levels of government demonstrated intense resistance to compliance with the *Brown* decision and the Commonwealth exhausted every possible means to avoid desegregation. The resistance lasted 10 years, during which time schools were closed in Charlottesville, Norfolk, Prince Edward County, and Warren County for various periods of time, and military enforcement of the law to desegregate schools that did stay open was necessary. In Arlington, state public education funds were rescinded

because public schools did not remain segregated. However, Prince Edward County was the only jurisdiction that closed its public schools for five years. Thousands of African American students and hundreds of white students were denied education and could not graduate. In other parts of the Commonwealth, African American students—and there were very few—attending white schools were harassed, threatened, isolated, humiliated, and treated with contempt.

In 1964, the United States Supreme Court found in *Griffin v. School Board of Prince Edward County*, 377 U.S. 218 (1964), that "closing the Prince Edward County schools while public schools in all the other counties of Virginia were being maintained denied the petitioners and the class of Negro students they represent the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment" and called for "quick and effective relief" to "put an end to the racial discrimination practiced against these petitioners under authority of the Virginia laws." The plaintiff in *Griffin*, a school age child, won for school children throughout the nation the right to a public education when this right has been established in state constitutions. Notwithstanding the dismantling of the legal infrastructure and formal end of Virginia's Massive Resistance, desegregation cases continued to be heard in federal courts in Virginia until 1984. The last Virginia desegregation case was finally dismissed in 2001. In 2003, the General Assembly of Virginia passed a resolution expressing profound regret over the closing of the Prince Edward public schools. In 2004, in addition to several other related measures designed to seize and maximize Virginia's Redemptive Moment, the General Assembly established the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program and Fund to provide opportunities for the education of persons throughout the Commonwealth who were affected by the school closings.

***BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Purpose

The *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program and Fund was created by the 2004 Virginia General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were enrolled or eligible to enroll in the public schools of Virginia during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964, in jurisdictions in which the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation. Eligible persons may use the award for transitional education programs that prepare them for success in GED and adult education programs, or to obtain the General Education Development (GED) certificate, an adult high school diploma, career or technical education or training, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credit, and an undergraduate, master's, doctoral, or professional degree from an accredited two-year or four-year public or private Virginia institution of higher education, as approved by the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Committee.

Who Is Eligible

You are eligible to apply for a scholarship if you are a domicile resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia as defined by § 23.1-502, **and** if, between 1954 and 1964, you were:

- A student in the public schools of Arlington, Charlottesville, Norfolk, Prince Edward County, or Warren County when the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation; and
- Unable to begin, continue, or complete your public school education during this time; or
- Relocated within or outside of the Commonwealth to begin, continue, or complete your public school education during these years due to school closings to avoid desegregation; or
- Ineligible to attend a private academy or foundation, in- or out-of-state, established to circumvent desegregation; or
- Unable to pursue postsecondary education opportunities or training because of the inability to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalency.

How Can the Scholarship Be Used and For How Long

Awards may be used for **full-time or part-time** attendance for no more than one year of study for students enrolled in transitional education, adult education diploma, GED and CLEP preparation programs and examinations. Awards may be used for **full-time or part-time** attendance for no more than the minimum number of credit hours required to complete certification or degree program requirements, except as approved by the Committee, for students enrolled in the following approved education programs. Awards may be used to cover the full costs of tuition and fees, provide a textbook allowance each term, and pay certain course-related materials as approved by the Committee.

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| ▪ Career and technical education or training | ▪ Master's degree |
| ▪ Two-year degree program | ▪ Doctoral degree |
| ▪ Four-year undergraduate degree program | ▪ Professional degree program |
| ▪ Five-year undergraduate degree program | |

Educational Programs that Qualify

- Approved transitional education programs
- Recognized preparation programs for the General Education Development Certificate (GED) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Adult Basic Education Programs offered by Virginia public schools
- Comprehensive community college programs at Virginia community colleges
- Career and technical education or training programs at Virginia community colleges and licensed nonprofit career schools
- Two-year and four-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private institutions of higher education
- Certain recognized five-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private four-year institutions of higher education
- Master's level degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private four-year institutions of higher education
- Doctoral level degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private four-year institutions of higher education
- Professional degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private four-year institutions of higher education
- Career and technical education or training programs, and undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs offered through distance-learning by accredited Virginia public and private two-year and four-year institutions of higher education

For purposes of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program only, an accredited Virginia public or private institution of higher education means a state-supported or private institution of higher education that is formed, chartered, incorporated, or established in Virginia whose main campus is within the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the institution is accredited by a national or regional organization or agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education for the purpose of ensuring the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education and the higher education programs they accredit.

Educational Programs that Do Not Qualify

- Theological schools and Seminaries
- Private, for-profit career and technical education schools
- Out-of-state schools, including those with campuses in Virginia
- Out-of-state schools' online programs
- Correspondence schools
- Unaccredited programs and institutions of higher education

How to Submit a Scholarship

- Obtain and return a completed application form together by the **March 31, 2023, deadline**. **This deadline will not be waived or extended.**
- Submit requested documentation verifying current Virginia domicile and residency.
- Provide all information requested on application form regarding date of birth, social security number, and last grade and school attended.
- Affirm current Virginia domicile and residency.
- Apply for admission to the approved education program or institution of your choice.
- Submit, after admission to the program or institution, a copy of your admission letter.

Application Deadline

All applications for the 2023–2024 academic year must be postmarked or emailed to the Committee by **March 25, 2023. Applications submitted after March 25, 2023, will not be accepted.** Applicants may also fax or email the completed application form to Lily Jones at (804) 698-1897, or at ljones@dls.virginia.gov **no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2023.** The application packet may be obtained upon request at the address below. It is also available online at <http://brownscholarship.virginia.gov>.

Where to Request or Send Your Application

Lily Jones
Division of Legislative Services
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main Street ♦ Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 698-1888 phone ♦ (804) 698-1897 fax ♦ ljones@dls.virginia.gov

Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program

Award Application

2023–2024 Academic Year **New and Renewal Applications Accepted through March 31, 2023**

All scholarships are awarded to begin in the FALL TERM

Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Mailing Address:

Do not use post office box (mailing address) (city) (state) (zip code)

Birth Date: ____/____/____ Phone Number: (____) ____ - _____

E-mail address, if available: _____

Where were you then? Tell us where you were and how the school closings of 1954–1964 affected you.

1. Where did you live during the time that your school was closed? (list county or city) _____

2. What was the name of your school that was closed? (Information will be verified) _____

3. What grade were you enrolled in during the school closings? _____

4. How were you affected? (Check one)

_____ Did not attend school

_____ Attended school out-of-state

_____ Attended an academy or foundation

_____ Was Tutored

_____ Attended school in another Virginia school division

_____ Other (please explain)

5. What is the highest grade or level of education you have now completed? _____

Where will you be enrolled in school? Tell us where you plan to use your scholarship in the 2023-2024 academic year.

1. I will be enrolled in a:

_____ transitional education or CLEP preparation program

_____ GED program

_____ adult high school diploma program

_____ career or technical education or skills training program

_____ two-year degree program

_____ four-year degree program

_____ master's degree program

_____ doctoral degree program

_____ professional degree program

2. If applicable, list the name of your degree program or area of study:

3. Name the institution in which you will be enrolled:

4. Address of institution:

5. Please attach a letter of acceptance or proof of enrollment at a qualified institution.

Renewal Applicants: please attach proof of continued enrollment or enrollment in a new program.

Where are you now?

In order to qualify for your award, you must be a domiciled resident of Virginia for at least one year. Your application will not be processed without this information.

1. Have you always lived in Virginia? ____ YES ____ NO If "NO," in what year did you move back to Virginia? _____

2. Please list where you have lived during the past two years:

(list state and county or city)

(list month and year)

_____	-	_____
_____	-	_____
_____	-	_____

3. To determine your **domicile**, check the appropriate box below. Also provide a copy of one of the documents below showing your name and a Virginia address that is at least one year old:

Do you hold a current driver's license or identification card in:	Virginia <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Does Not Apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Did you file a state income tax return in 2022:	Virginia <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Does Not Apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you registered to vote in:	Virginia <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Does Not Apply <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you own a vehicle that is registered in:	Virginia <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Does Not Apply <input type="checkbox"/>

If you checked "Does Not Apply" to any of the above, submit a document from the list in #4 below that is at least one year old in addition to the two requested.

4. To verify current **residency**, attach a copy of two of the following documents that are not more than 60 days old:

- ☐ Payroll check stub from a Virginia employer
- ☐ Monthly bank statement in your name to your Virginia address
- ☐ Utility bill in your name to your Virginia address (cellular phone and pager bills are not accepted)
- ☐ Cancelled check with your name and Virginia address imprinted
- ☐ If active-duty military, a copy of your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) showing Virginia as your domicile

In compliance with #3 and #4 above, **submit a total of three (3) documents**: one at least one year old and two less than 60 days old as requested.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS ONLY must demonstrate satisfactory academic achievement during the previous academic year. Please check the appropriate box and attach the documents that apply:

- ☐ Copy of transcript of 2022 fall semester (**must be submitted together with application**), if enrolled in an institution of higher education. If approved for a scholarship, a final 2022-2023 academic year transcript must be submitted by June 1, 2023
 - ☐ Documentation of passage of GED test or CLEP examination(s)
 - ☐ Documentation from educational program or institution indicating completion of program requirements, if enrolled in a transitional education program, an adult high school diploma program, career and technical education or skills training program, or two-year degree program
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I hereby affirm the above information is true as presented and authorize the *Brown v. Board of Education Committee* and/or its agents to verify such information solely for the purpose of establishing my eligibility for the scholarship program.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

SURVEY

To aid the Committee in projecting the duration of the balance in the Program's Fund, please indicate your educational goals:

I plan to continue my education until I earn the _____ degree.
(name the degree)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete applications will include:

- ☐ This form, signed and completed
- ☐ Proof of acceptance or enrollment in a qualified program
- ☐ One document verifying domicile
- ☐ Two documents verifying residency