



Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Pursuant to § 30-231.1 et seq., Code of Virginia

FACT SHEET

Genesis of Program

The *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program and Fund was created by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission as a part of the Commonwealth's two-year long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* and the legislation was passed by the 2004 General Assembly. The Program and Fund were re-created and passed by the 2005 General Assembly to correct certain deficiencies in the 2004 legislation. The Scholarship Program is designed to assist persons who were enrolled or were scheduled to begin their education 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, in obtaining an adult high school diploma, the General Education Development certificate, career or technical education or training, CLEP, an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree from an accredited public or private two-year or four-year Virginia institution of higher education.

Scholarship Fund

Initially, the Scholarship Program was funded at \$50,000 by the 2004 General Assembly. Prior to the 2004 Reconvened Session, a Virginia philanthropist, Mr. John Kluge, donated \$1 million to the scholarship fund on the condition that the General Assembly match the donation. The General Assembly appropriated \$1 million to match the donation, increasing the scholarship fund to \$2, 050,000 million.

Eligibility for Scholarship

Eligibility for the scholarship is limited to **current domiciled** residents of Virginia who between 1954 and 1964 were:

- Students in the public schools of Arlington, Charlottesville, Norfolk, Prince Edward County, or Warren County where the public schools were closed to avoid desegregation; and
- Unable to begin, continue, or complete their public school education in one of these school divisions; or
- Relocated within or outside of the Commonwealth during Massive Resistance to begin, continue, or complete their public school education between 1954 and 1964 due to public school closings to avoid desegregation; or
- Ineligible to attend a private academy or foundation, in- or out-of-state, established to circumvent desegregation; and
- Unable to pursue postsecondary education opportunities or training because of the inability to obtain a high school diploma due to public school closings to avoid desegregation.

How Can the Scholarship Be Used and For How Long

- A scholarship award may be used **only** to pay the costs of tuition
- GED Program—one year (cost of GED test only)
- Adult high school diploma—one year (tuition only)
- Career and technical education and training—two years
- Two-year degree program—two years
- Four-year undergraduate degree program—four years
- Certain recognized five-year undergraduate degree program—five years
- Graduate degree program—two years or as approved by Committee
- Professional degree program—as approved by Committee

Persons who obtain the GED certificate, adult high school diploma, career and technical education and training, or a two-year undergraduate degree may be eligible for a scholarship to obtain a four-year undergraduate degree or a graduate or professional degree.

Scholarship Renewal

- Scholarships may be renewed upon evidence of satisfactory academic achievement.
- Scholarships may be renewed upon submission and Committee approval of a renewal application.

Educational Programs That Qualify

- Recognized preparation programs for the General Education Development Certificate (GED)
- Adult Basic Education Programs offered by Virginia public schools
- Comprehensive community college programs (i.e. two-year undergraduate degree programs) at Virginia community colleges
- Career and technical education and training at Virginia community colleges
- Four-year and certain recognized five-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private four-year institutions of higher education, including undergraduate degree programs offered electronically by these institutions
- Graduate and professional degree programs at accredited Virginia public and private institutions of higher education

"For purposes of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, 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 career and technical education, and vocation schools
- Proprietary schools
- Out-of-state schools and institutions, including online and other distance learning programs, and out-of-state schools and institutions with Virginia campuses
- Correspondence schools

How to Apply

- Applicants must be able to prove that they are current domiciled residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the time of application for the scholarship.

Documents accepted to establish Virginia **domicile**:

- Current Virginia driver's license or identification card
- Current Virginia vehicle registration
- Virginia voter registration card
- Affirmation that you filed a state income tax return in Virginia

Documents accepted to establish Virginia **residency**: **Two** of the following documents **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 both name and address imprinted
- If active-duty military, a copy of your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) showing Virginia as your domicile

Copies of the documents above are acceptable. Do not send originals.

- Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for awards established by law
- Applicants must request, complete, and return an application form, together with appropriate documents to establish domicile and residency in Virginia by the application deadline
- Applicants must provide a copy of the letter of admission or acceptance to the program to which they have applied, or in which they are currently enrolled that meets the qualifications of the scholarship program

Other Information

- Applicants for the GED will receive an award to cover the costs of the GED test and will be advised of their eligibility to receive a scholarship to continue their education at an accredited public or private two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
- A member of the Committee's counseling and technical advisory team will contact scholarship recipients to provide counseling and assistance in selecting appropriate educational programs and setting educational goals, and interfacing with GED programs, public schools, and institutions of higher education concerning the admission and enrollment of scholarship recipients to ensure successful transition and academic success.

Next Application Deadline

- The application deadline each year is **March 1**.
- Applications will be available upon request after January 1, each year by contacting:

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