

Brown v. Board Scholarship Committee Policies

Policies of the Committee

Recommendations for 2025-2026 Scholarships

I. Eligibility for Scholarship.

No changes recommended. This criteria is based on the statute.

II. Award Amounts.

Recommend clarifying the amounts in which funds are disbursed:

B. Descendants are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per academic year (fall, spring, and summer terms), disbursed in amounts of no more than \$5,000 per semester, which may be applied toward tuition or program costs, fees, and books as provided in § 30-231.3 of the Code of Virginia. Up to \$5,000 may be disbursed in each of the fall and spring semesters, and if any funds remain of the \$10,000 total award, they may be applied to the summer term.

Recommend removing "tuition-only" so that all outside financial assistance is considered when calculating a student's award amount:

An award, when combined with ~~tuition-only~~ assistance such as a tuition waiver, tuition scholarship or grant, or employer tuition reimbursement, shall not exceed the student's actual charges for tuition and required fees and books. An award cannot combine with other forms of grants and scholarships to exceed the student's cost of attendance.

III. Submission of Applications

Recommend the same application opening date as last year's:

Applications for the ~~2024-2025~~ 2025-2026 academic year are available online beginning January 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, on the Committee's website: <http://brownscholarship.virginia.gov>. Applications are distributed free by mail upon request.

Deadlines, as indicated on the application, for submission of applications, acceptance forms, and other documents required by the Committee will not be waived.

IV. How to Apply for a Scholarship or Renewal of Scholarship

Recommend removing the requirement that applicants submit documents to establish domicile, and instead verify domicile through the student's institution, or if the student is attending an institution that does not verify domicile, through documentation from the student after acceptance.

Recommend requiring FAFSA or VASA for all applicants who are descendants. Currently the policies require the FAFSA or VASA for students "applying for a program for which submission of the FAFSA is applicable."

Recommend creating a simplified application for renewal of scholarships.

V. Selection Process and Acceptance or Renewal

Consider changes to prioritization criteria, including consideration of academic performance, and cap on number of students. Consider modeling certain guidelines on Pell Grant guidelines. Current criteria reads:

It is the policy of the committee to prioritize applications of directly affected individuals for acceptance into the Program. The Committee shall limit the number of Scholarship recipients who are descendants to no more than 10 per academic year.

In evaluating applications of descendants, the Committee shall prioritize applicants based on degree of relationship to the directly affected individual.