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## Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee

May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

General Assembly Building, Senate Room A, Room 305

[brownscholarship.virginia.gov](http://brownscholarship.virginia.gov)

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee (the Committee) met in Richmond.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with the election of a chair, Senator Angelia Williams Graves, and vice-chair, Delegate Candi Mundon King, followed by introductions and opening remarks. The chair welcomed the Committee's new members, Delegate Anne Ferrell H. Tata, Delegate Jackie Hope Glass, and Ms. Paris Turner, and welcomed the Committee's newly reappointed member, Ms. Joan Johns Cobbs. 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*

Due to the Committee's new membership, Ms. Jones provided a brief overview of the history of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program. Ms. Jones then provided the Committee with status updates on the congressionally directed spending grant request initiated by Ken Woodley and the expansion of the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program. The Committee voted in 2023 to send a letter to Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner in support of the congressionally directed spending request, and in 2024, \$500,000 in funding for the scholarship was approved by Congress. Additionally, the General Assembly approved \$2,000,000 in funding for the scholarship in its budget for the 2024–2026 biennium. With these appropriations, the Committee will receive \$2.5 million in new funding in the upcoming fiscal years, to be added to the approximately \$1 million currently in the scholarship fund.

At its last meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to implement the 2024–2025 expansion of the scholarship program to descendants of anyone who was eligible for the scholarship under the original criteria by prioritizing acceptance into the program based on applicants' degree of relationship to directly affected individuals.

### Executive Session

The Committee voted to convene an executive session pursuant to subdivision A 36 of § 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia to discuss and consider matters pertaining to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program excluded from public discussion under this section. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Committee voted to return to open session.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Senator Angelia Williams Graves (chair), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Jackie Hope Glass, Delegate Chris Runion, Delegate Anne Ferrell H. Tata, Joan Johns Cobbs, Barbara Inman, Cameron Patterson, Paris Turner

**Members Absent:** Delegate Candi Mundon King (vice-chair), Geneda Kearney

## 2024–2025 Academic Year Scholarships

The Committee directed staff to notify all eligible applicants, both directly affected individuals and lineal or collateral descendants, of the Committee's approval of their scholarships for the 2024–2025 academic year.

## Discussion: 2025–2026 Application Cycle

The Committee discussed the implementation of the expansion of the scholarship fund and the need to establish sound criteria for acceptance into the program in order to evaluate the new influx of applications. The Committee tasked staff with establishing a questionnaire to send to Committee members to determine a solid criteria base for applicants moving forward.

## Next Meeting

Senator Williams Graves directed staff to poll members for the next meeting.

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

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