



The Big 33 Academic Scholarship is open to students in Pennsylvania who are planning to attend a technical school or accredited college or university following high school graduation. Eligible students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 during their sophomore and junior year of high school. They must also be high school seniors at a public or private school in Pennsylvania.

Since 1985, more than \$3.9 million in academic scholarships have been awarded to deserving students. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is proud to manage this fund following the dissolution of its previous foundation in 2020. We look forward to helping students across the state achieve their academic goals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. High school senior enrolled in a public or accredited private school in Pennsylvania
2. Has attained a 2.0 cumulative GPA for 10th and 11th grades
3. Planning on attending an accredited institution of higher learning or technical school
4. Students should exhibit such traits as academic achievement, community service, financial need, leadership, obstacles overcome, special talents, unique endeavors

HOW TO APPLY

The application process is online. You can access and submit the application beginning January 1.

[Click here](#) to access the online application.

If you are signing back in to complete your application, please [click here](#).

Before accessing the application, be prepared to attach the following items:

***** YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL THESE ITEMS ARE ATTACHED *****

1. Student Resume: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
2. FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR): Please attach the report in its entirety. The report must include the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Please be aware that the SAR is **not** the same as the Summary Report. In addition to the SAR, you may also provide a letter with information you believe will be useful in determining your financial need (e.g., family and student income). Are there extenuating circumstances of which we should be aware? For example, illness in the family, loss of employment, or other relevant information?
3. Write a one page essay describing why you deserve a Big 33 Scholarship. Direct comments toward your motivation, need (financial or otherwise), leadership and academic accomplishments. Describe special talents and special, creative or challenging activities that you have initiated or obstacles you have overcome to achieve your goals. Essay must be typed, on one-side of one-page.

The following requirements must be emailed to scholarshipapplications@tfec.org separately. These items will not appear as attachments to your online application or prevent you from submitting:

The following requirements must be emailed by your school's counseling office:

1. *Official Transcript.*
2. *School Counselor Form.* [Click here](#) to download the form

RENEWABILITY

This scholarship is a one-time only award.

MATCHING AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

AES/PHEAA's PATH Program: Scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by AES/PHEAA's *PATH ("Partnerships for Access to Higher Education") Program*. PHEAA may grant matching funds to scholarship recipients who are enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania college or career school as an undergraduate student on at least a half-time basis, who are a Pennsylvania state grant recipient and who demonstrate financial need. Students must also be a resident of Pennsylvania, not in default on any educational loans, maintain academic progress, and not be considered an incarcerated student. The match provides last-dollar support for tuition and fees. *Scholarship funds used for reimbursement of textbook purchases are not eligible for a PATH Program match.* The scholarship recipient's information is submitted to PHEAA by TFEC staff. No additional work will be asked of the scholarship recipient. For more information regarding AES/PHEAA, please refer to their website at www.pheaa.org.