

# COLUMBUS OLD SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC

## Scholarship Program

The awards process is highly competitive and recognizes outstanding first-generation students who plan to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree at an accredited college or university. Each student may receive an average one-time award of \$1,000. Please note that these scholarships are non-renewable and awarded for a single academic year. Importantly, all scholarships are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Have a transcript mailed to the Foundation by the school.
- If you are 18 or older, you must show proof that you are a registered voter.
- Submit three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the school principal.
- Write a one-page essay about yourself, explaining why you deserve this award. Include your community involvement and future goals.
- Must submit a professional-looking headshot photo to be used for introducing scholarship recipients to the committee and donors. The photo should be clear, recent, and appropriate for professional settings. Email photo to [cosefinc@gmail.com](mailto:cosefinc@gmail.com). Include in the subject of the email your "full name and "PHOTO FOR 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP".
- Submit the application and complete all requirements by February 15, 2026.
- Be available for an interview in March or April of 2026.
- If selected, attend the Scholarship Award Ceremony (TBD).
- Commit to attending a two- or four-year institution of higher learning by interview date.
- If awarded, utilize the scholarship by January 31st of the year following the award date; otherwise, the award will be voided.
- Recipients of our scholarship must validate their enrollment and physical attendance at a two- or four-year college, in the fall of the same year, to receive the check. (currently \$1000.00)
- Awards are subject to revocation if requirements are not met.
- Must be a student from the Tri-City area, which includes Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties in Georgia and Russell County in Alabama.
- Parents must not be two- or four-year college graduates
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Mail/Email the completed packets to the address at the bottom of this page.

### Candidate Interviews

After the application forms are received, some candidates will be invited to an interview with the Scholarship Committee. Interviews will be held during the months of March and April 2026. Location and times for each interview will be provided before entering the competition. **Each applicant must participate in the interview process to be considered for the scholarship.**

### Accessing The Scholarship Application

The Scholarship Application is available by emailing the Scholarship Committee at [cosefinc@gmail.com](mailto:cosefinc@gmail.com) to request the application be sent to your email. You can also check with your school Guidance Counselor to obtain the application packet.

#### EDUCATION THROUGH EXCELLENCE

COSEF 3100 Gentian Blvd, Suite 115, Columbus, GA 31907  
COSEF EMAIL: [cosefinc@gmail.com](mailto:cosefinc@gmail.com)

## **Important Timelines**

The Columbus Old School Educational Foundation has designated a five-month period from October to February in which applications are accepted for the current academic school year.

**To be considered for a scholarship, all components of the application, to include all letters of recommendation and transcripts, must be completed and received in our office via postal mail/email by February 15 2026. Mail applications and supporting documents to the following address:**

COLUMBUS OLD SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
3100 Gentian Blvd, Suite 115  
Columbus, Georgia 31907

\*Please carefully review the eligibility criteria before completing the application package.

## **TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE**

Acceptance of an award obligates the recipient to:

- Maintain a high standard of work and conduct.
- Must be a first -generation student, meaning neither parent graduated from any college.
- Have transcripts sent to the foundation by his or her school to be added to the packet before February 15, 2026.
- Keep a close relationship with the foundation through correspondence and visits.
- Advise the foundation promptly of any change in his or her academic or financial situation.
- If awarded, the student must utilize the award by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the award date. Otherwise, the award will be voided.
- Every award is subject to revocation if, in the opinion of the foundation, the holder fails to meet these requirements.
- Provide a student college acceptance letter, and a letter verifying class attendance, which must include the student's identification and number. This will allow the foundation to verify enrollment and physical attendance which is required to process payment of the scholarship award.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair if you have any questions.

Melvin Blackwell  
706-289-7022  
blackw\_m@bellsouth.net

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