SCHOLARSHIPS

Looking for Scholarships? FCPS maintains an online scholarship database through Family Connection. Login to Blackboard, click on the Family Connection icon, select the Colleges tab, and then click on Scholarship List. The scholarships are listed in alphabetical order. Students may use the College and Career Center’s computers to access scholarships.

Scholarships Search Check List:
- Check Family Connection
- College Access Fairfax
- Community Foundations
- Service & Fraternal Organizations (Elks, Rotary, Spouses Clubs, etc.)
- Check employers of family members or large corporations in your community
- Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at FAFSA.ed.gov
- Check school website you are applying to

Scholarship Scams Warning Signs
- Scholarship “Fees”
- Scholarship is “Guaranteed”
- Exclusive – “You can’t get this information anywhere else”
- Credit Card/Bank Account information needed
- Unsolicited – “you’re a finalist”

Websites Worth Noting:
- www.collegeaccessfairfax.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.iefa.org
- www.collegeexpress.com
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.absolutelyscholarships.com
- www.edupass.org
- www.collegequest.com
- www.supercollege.com
- www.salliemae.com/scholarship
- www.cappex.com
- www.actonadream.org/resources/scholarships

What Do Scholarship Committees Look For?
Do you qualify? Is your application presented well? Did you include all required documents? Did you answer all the questions?

Application Tips:
- Apply early
- Pay close attention to deadline dates
- Allow enough time for recommendation letters
- Provide good contact information
- Proofread application and attachments
- If you are awarded a scholarship, inform Mrs. Venos, College & Career Center
- Always send a thank you note
Master the Basics of Scholarship Essays:
- Get organized
- Read and follow all directions
- Demonstrate originality and creativity
- Develop a theme that fits the scholarship
- Turn in a professional looking essay
- Give it the “once over”
- Have someone proofread it for grammar

Additional Scholarship Resources:

Academic Common Market
http://www.sreb.org/page/1304/academic_common_market.html
Students seeking a major/program not offered by a college in Virginia may qualify for in-state tuition rates at an out-of-state school. This website lists the agreements established between states and schools for particular programs. Students must be accepted to the school in that specific program in order to qualify for in-state rates. (Agreements are updated annually).

FinAid www.finaid.org
This website offers information on countless scholarships, but also on the Financial Aid process, pre-paid tuition programs, pre-paid tuition programs and military aid.
~ Scholarships for “Average” Students
www.finaid.org/scholarships/average.phtml
These scholarships don’t require a high GPA but excellence in non-academic areas.
~ Prestigious Scholarships
www.finaid.org/scholarship/prestigious/phtml
This listing includes the most well-known and lucrative scholarships but are also the most competitive.
~ Unusual Scholarships
www.finaid.org/scholarships/unusual.phtml

College Board’s Scholarship Search
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search

Hispanic Scholarship Fund https://hsf.net/

United Negro College Fund
https://scholarships.uncf.org/

Asian Pacific American
http://www.ocanational.org/?page=Programs_Scholarship

Co-operative Learning College
http://www.waceinc.org/scholarship/index.html
Discover scholarships offered by colleges with co-operative learning programs.

The resources listed here have not be endorsed by McLean High School or Fairfax County Public Schools.