



## Administrator's Association of San Diego City Schools

### Local 134: American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO

## Irene Beatrice Hightower Scholarship Application Instructions

In December 2025, AASD and SDUSD lost an incredible friend, woman, mom and leader. As principal of Hancock Elementary and president of the Administrator's Association of San Diego City Schools, Irene left an indelible mark on the countless lives she touched. In honor of Principal Irene B. Hightower, a scholarship in the amount of \$2500 has been established to help students pursuing a degree in Education and continue her legacy.

Irene was an outstanding leader, who touched the lives of many educators with her infectious laugh, positive attitude, and brilliant mind. She stood out for her integrity and authenticity and was well known and respected for her commitment to the betterment of others as well as personal growth. Irene treated all with fairness and respect and was committed to creating an equitable environment for her students and her community. Although she left us at a young age, this scholarship will carry her memory and legacy, as well as honor her commitment to education, her family and the military community in which she served.

All applicants must be SDUSD graduating high school seniors who will be attending college for the first time in 2026. Applicants must be the children of active or retired military personnel and intend on earning a degree in Education with a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or above. All applicants must complete the application process which includes uploading their student transcript, essay and personal evaluation (Letter of Recommendation). Application submission is on-line ONLY at <https://forms.gle/hvhRQArHXekyYyEj6>.

#### Essay Criteria:

1. Name
2. Identify college of acceptance
3. Address the following prompts:
  - a. What are your reasons for applying for this scholarship? Comment on your higher education goals.
  - b. Describe the impact the military has had on your life and how you hope to use your knowledge and experience to serve others.
  - c. Describe your volunteerism in the community.
  - d. Describe how this scholarship will help you achieve your goals.

#### Personal Evaluation Contents:

1. Name of applicant
2. Evaluator's name, title and address
3. Description of activity the evaluator is involved with the applicant. Must be through school, employment or community/service
4. How long has the evaluator known the applicant
5. What personal character qualities impress you most about the applicant?
6. Please comment on the applicant's commitment to higher education pursuits.
7. Add any additional comments which you think will help us evaluate the applicant for the scholarship program.
8. Sign and date the evaluation.
9. Provide pdf to student for application upload.

The application deadline is **April 10, 2026**. If you have any questions about the scholarship application process, please contact: AASD, 619-295-2118.