Guidelines for the Rural Missouri High School Senior Scholarship Fund

Missouri Association of Rural Education

OVERVIEW:

The level of economic development of an area is directly related to the quality of education available. To improve the economic development of rural Missouri, an adequate number of well-trained, dedicated teachers must be available to instruct in rural school districts.

OBJECTIVES:

The goals to be achieved through the Rural Missouri High School Senior Scholarship Fund include:

- ❑ Attracting quality students to enroll in teacher education programs in a Missouri College or University.
- ❑ Improving the economic development of rural communities by upgrading the education system to provide a well-educated, skilled work force
- ❑ Attract intelligent, energetic individuals to furnish leadership skills in rural communities.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

MARE's scholarship committee has recommended the general criteria to include:

- ❑ Academic achievement
- ❑ Leadership qualities
- ❑ Interest in teaching in a rural school system

COMPONENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA:

Only senior high school level Missouri students (graduation eligible) qualify as scholarship recipients.
Only senior students attending MARE member school districts are eligible to apply. This includes HS students from tuition paying MARE member K-8 school districts. There is no limit on the number of scholarship applications that an individual member school district may submit. Students must enroll in and attend a Missouri college or university!

An essay should be provided describing the applicant's connection to and interest in rural Missouri, and why they want to go into a teacher education program and teach in a rural community. This essay should be no more than two pages, double-spaced.

Applicants must also provide personal recommendations from one official from their home high school and from two current or previous high school instructors. These recommendations should include comments on the following:

- ❑ Leadership ability
- ❑ Scholastic achievement
- ❑ Dependability
- ❑ Ability to relate to students and faculty
- ❑ Potential for success as a rural teacher

Copy of their high school transcript is required with the application.

Proof of acceptance to a Missouri college or university.

The application form includes such items as:

- ❑ What is the degree of your financial need?
- ❑ How are you funding your education?
- ❑ What other scholarships have you been granted?
- ❑ What is your major area of course study?
- ❑ In what activities have you participated while in school? (Clubs, student government, sports, volunteerism, etc.) What leadership roles have you had within these various activities?

SCREENING PROCEDURES:

MARE will contact member school districts notifying them of scholarship opportunities. The applications will be screened by the Scholarship Committee, which is responsible for naming scholarship recipients.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

Mr. Kevin Sandlin, Executive Director
MARE Scholarship Fund
Missouri Association of Rural Education
710 N College Street, Suite C
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093-1220

SCHOLARSHIP – IMPORTANT DATES:

Notification to MARE Member School Districts	11/15/2025
Application Deadline (Received in MARE Office)	03/13/2026
Selection Meeting	Not later than March 20, 2026
ANTICIPATED MARE Announcement	March 27, 2026

***** Scholarship awards will be in the amount of $750.00 each!**

APPLICATION FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF RURAL EDUCATION

Name:_____

Address:_____
City/State:_____ Zip Code:_____

Telephone:_____
Home or Cell

Email
Address:_____

College/University Enrolled in:_____Location_____

Major:_____

College Hours Completed (End of Semester)_____

High School Counselor:_____Email_____
Phone Number_____

Parent (Guardian)
Name:_____

Parent (Guardian)
Address:_____
City/State:_____ Zip Code:_____

Grade Point
Average:_____

How is your education being funded?

Do you have other scholarships? _____. If yes, please state the name, duration, and amount of each scholarship.
(yes/no)

In which extracurricular activities do you participate? (Clubs, student government, sports, etc.)?

Please Include All of The Following With Your Application:

1. A brief essay discussing why you would like to teach in a rural Missouri community. (Maximum length of two pages, double spaced).

2. Personal recommendations letters from the following that include comments on leadership ability, scholastic achievement, dependability, ability to relate to other students/faculty and potential for success as a rural teacher:

    a. One official (counselor/administrator) from the high school from which the applicant will graduate.
    b. Two letters of recommendations from current or previous secondary instructors.

3. Proof of acceptance to a Missouri college or university.

4. A copy of your high school transcript.