We are glad you are exploring the Illinois PTA Scholarship Program for college funding. Each year we award two scholarships to students in Illinois who are interested in entering the field of education. Please read these instructions carefully when completing the application.

This is a highly competitive program and will require that you take the time to fully and accurately portray yourself. The information you collect for this scholarship application will help you present yourself for other scholarships and for your college admissions applications.

Before You Apply

There are a few things that you can do to help you prepare to apply for the Illinois PTA Scholarship for high school seniors. The bullets below are based on questions that we receive during the process.

Information to gather

- A transcript – you will need this to report the course level and grades that you have received since your freshman year in high school. All transcripts must contain a minimum of 6 high school semesters completed and with grades.
- A list of school and non-school related clubs and organizations in which you have participated since your freshman year and any corresponding leadership positions.
- A list of honors and awards that you received when participating in school and non-school related clubs and organizations and the level of each award (Local, State, Regional or National) since your freshman year.
- A list of your volunteer organizations with which you have served and the number of hours served with each, and any awards and honors that you have received for your participation since freshman year.

Sample Application

Click here for a sample application for you to use when preparing to apply for our online application. This sample will not be accepted for application to our scholarship as we accept only electronic applications.

Detailed Instructions

Page 1: Biographical Information

Please carefully complete the biographical information (name, address, etc.). Be sure your information is accurate and complete for notification purposes. All fields with an asterisk (*) are required and cannot be blank.

You are eligible to apply ONLY if you expect to graduate this academic year. If you have not yet attained graduating senior status, then you may be eligible in a future year.
Page 2: Student Statement

Each of these three fields is required. You can save the information and come back to this page however you cannot advance to the next page until this page has been completed.

1. Projected Area of Study
   Indicate which field of education you plan to study in college

2. Why do you want to enter an education related field:
   Please “tell us your story.” What made you decide to enter the education field and what you would like to accomplish. You will have up to 3000 characters including punctuation and spacing to express this.

3. Explain how Parent Involvement enhances educational growth.
   You will have up to 3000 characters including punctuation and spacing to express this.

Page 3: School Activities

PLEASE LIST THE REQUESTED INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS. You have 3000 characters per question.

First, indicate the position(s) you have held in these in-school activities. For instance: athletics, clubs, programs, publications, etc. Include offices and/or positions held. Indicate number of years of participation for each activity. Please be sure to distinguish the years (9-12) when you count the number of clubs/organizations.

Second, list your out-of-school activities such as work experiences, volunteer activity, community, church, etc. Include offices and/or positions held. Please indicate the hours of volunteer service you’ve performed by grade year. Please indicate the number of community organizations that you actively participated in during each grade year. Note that these organizations can be school-related, but should not duplicate any responses you made in any previous section of the application.

Third, itemize your recognitions and awards (any National, State, Local or School awards). Tell us about the honors you have received, that are most meaningful to you and whether they were on a local (school, county, or district), state or national level. This question allows for a short description. These may be recognitions and awards outside of school activities, but should not be duplicated in other areas of this application. Whether these are in community organizations or school related, indicate the grade level of the award.

Lastly, please authorize the usage of your information by signing on the signature line. If student is under 18 years of age, a parent signature is required. Your mouse or finger can be used to draw in your signature. Signatures will not be saved until the application is submitted. These actions must be completed just prior to your submission. If you (the applicant) are not 18 years old and your parent can not sign the application when you sign, please put an X in their signature box. We will send you a parental release via email to collect their signature.
What am I authorizing?

1. I authorize the school to release all necessary information to the Illinois PTA.

2. I authorize Illinois PTA the use of my application and any other requested material.

3. I understand and acknowledge that the Counselor and Teacher listed on the application will be contacted to verify the information provided.

4. I certify that if granted this scholarship I will attend a university or college, and will be enrolled in a curriculum program to prepare me for a degree in the field of education or an education related degree program, which requires certification from a State Board of Education.

Page 4: Please List and Upload the Following Information

Please consult with your counselor to assure that you fully complete the academic information requested. **Grades for a minimum of 6 semesters of high school must be on the uploaded transcript.** If any information is found to be inaccurate, the application will be disqualified.

You must indicate all grades received for all courses completed.

Submission

You are able to make any necessary updates and edits to your profile and application until the submit form button is clicked. Simply log in using the url received when saving the information, make the changes and be sure to save and continue to the end of the application to click on Submit to submit the changes.

We wish you the best!