

2018 Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship Program Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship program is to recognize student leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement. It is the goal of the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation to encourage Wisconsin youth to pursue post-secondary education in a public or nonpublic university, college, or vocational/technical college. The Foundation awards \$10,000 scholarships to 100 Wisconsin high school graduates each year.

Who Is Eligible to Apply

Applicants must be graduating high school students who intend to enroll in a postsecondary institution, which may be a public or nonpublic university, college, or vocational/technical college. Students who are residents of the State of Wisconsin, are in good standing, and who demonstrate probable success in postsecondary education are eligible to apply. This is a competitive scholarship.

Note: Eligibility is not limited by GPA, class rank, or any other school or program conferred status (ex. National Honor Society). Any student who meets the above eligibility criteria may apply.

Selection Criteria

Students will be evaluated on their leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement. In addition, students will be evaluated on their ability to clearly articulate goals in each of four areas: future educational goals, personal life goals, community/society service goals, and career goals. There is no minimum GPA required, nor a specific class ranking.

Each student must submit three letters of recommendation, one from each of the following categories:

1. Teacher;
2. Counselor or Principal;
3. Community member or family friend who is not affiliated with your school district.

Letters of recommendation will be evaluated on how well they describe the student's improvements, contributions, and successes. Letters may be from a current or previous year's teacher, counselor or principal.

Application Process

Students may apply by requesting a copy of the scholarship application materials from their high school counselor, or they may download them directly from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation website.

Students must submit their completed applications to their **principal** no later than **Friday, November 3, 2017**. **All applications must be typed.**

Principals must submit completed applications to their district administrator by Monday, November 6, 2017, to be eligible for participation in the local selection committee.

Each school district is entitled to nominate one, two, or three graduating students **per high school**, based on the following enrollment formula:

<u>High School Enrollment</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
Under 400 students	1
400-999 students	2
1,000 or more students	3

Each school district administrator or superintendent will assemble a local selection committee to review student applications. Administrators, teachers, business and civic leaders, and Wisconsin Newspaper Association representatives will comprise the local district selection committee. The district may use an existing local scholarship committee provided it follows the Kohl Scholarship criteria. Students will be notified by their district whether or not they have progressed to a Regional Selection Committee.

The selected student applications are then forwarded by the district administrator or superintendent (or his or her designee) to the Regional Selection Committee, which is coordinated in each of the state's 12 Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs), or Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) no later than **Wednesday, November 22, 2017**. Students who have reached the Regional Selection Committee will be notified by their CESA or MPS whether or not their application has progressed to the Statewide Selection Committee.

No later than **Friday, December 8, 2017**, CESAs and MPS will advance their regional nominees to the Statewide Selection Committee, which will consist of representatives from the CESAs, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS), Wisconsin Parents Association, Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, education related associations, and civic leaders. The committee will convene on **February 5-6, 2018**, to score applications. Applicants who have reached the Statewide Selection Committee level will be contacted in early March.

Use of Scholarship Grant

A Kohl Excellence Scholarship may be used to directly reimburse the student's post-secondary institution for tuition, room and board, books, technology, equipment and fees. In August 2018, the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation will send the \$10,000 scholarship grants directly to the postsecondary institutions. Scholarship recipients will be honored and will receive certificates representing their awards at a special luncheon held in the spring.

For questions regarding the Herb Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship, please contact:

Mark Mueller

Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction

(608) 266-3945

mark.mueller@dpi.wi.gov

@WIEE_mjm