



2025 – 2026 PARENT HANDBOOK

A Guide for Families Applying to Renaissance Scholarships, Inc.



Renaissance Scholarships Overview

Renaissance Scholarships, Inc. (RSI) is a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) established under the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. Our mission is to provide high-quality education opportunities to students with financial needs by partnering with academically rigorous, private K-12 schools in Alabama.

Partner School

- Advent Episcopal School
- Highlands School
- Indian Springs School
- John Carroll Catholic High School
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School
- N. E. Miles Jewish Day School
- Randolph School
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
- The Altamont School
- The Donoho School
- The Montgomery Academy

Where to Apply

All returning RSI scholars and students recommended by a Partner School may apply online at <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/RenaissanceScholarship2025> or scan the QR code below. New Students who apply without a Partner School recommending them to RSI, will be disqualified and their application will not be considered.



Who is Eligible?

RSI operates and awards scholarships under the authority of the Alabama Accountability Act.

Students entering kindergarten through 12th grade may be considered for scholarships provided:

- the rising Kindergarten student is five years old by September 1, 2025; and
- the student is not over 18 years old at the time of application.

To be considered for a scholarship, all applicants must be “income eligible.” Income eligibility requires the applicant’s 2024 AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) not to exceed a certain threshold based on the size of the household. You can find your AGI on line 10 of your Alabama State Tax Return. If you do not file taxes, we will look at all other forms of income to determine eligibility.

All first-time scholarship applicants must meet the income thresholds for New Applicants. This requirement also applies to new applicants who have a sibling currently receiving the scholarship. Students with an IEP or 504 plan are exempt from the income eligibility criteria, but their families are still required to submit all necessary income documentation.

The income thresholds for *2025-2026 applicants*:

Scholarship Income Guidelines		
2025 - 2026 School Year		
	New Applicants	Returning Applicants
Household Size	Max. Annual Income	
2	\$52,875	\$75,250
3	\$66,625	\$93,275
4	\$80,375	\$112,525
5	\$94,125	\$131,775
6	\$107,875	\$151,025
7	\$121,625	\$170,275
8	\$135,375	\$189,525
Each additional person add:	\$13,750	\$19,250

The Alabama Accountability Act prioritizes scholarships for students who are zoned to attend a "Priority" public school. A "Priority" public school is defined as one that has received a grade of 'D' or 'F' on the State Report Card. You can find this list by visiting the Alabama State Department of Education website and searching for the State Report Card or by checking the [Consolidated State Report Card](#). Students from all school zones can apply for an RSI Scholarship.

The Alabama Accountability Act permits up to 25% of new scholarships awarded each year can be awarded to students who were continuously enrolled in private education during the previous academic year. This category is the most competitive for applications, with RSI typically admitting only 2 to 10 students from this group each year. All applicants must submit a copy of their most recent semester report card along with their application. This is required to confirm that the student's status from the previous school year complies with legal requirements.

Please be aware that application procedures, including deadlines and certain priority considerations, are governed by the Alabama Accountability Act legislation and the guidelines of the Alabama Department of Revenue. These procedures and policies may change at any time.

Renewals and New Applicants

Renewal students are defined as students who are currently receiving an SGO scholarship. The scholarship can be provided by any SGO in Alabama.

New students are those not currently receiving an SGO scholarship, including individuals who may have received one in the past but do not have it.

Renewal students invited to continue at a Partner School may renew their scholarship each year, as long as they maintain good standing at the school. Each year, parents will receive an email from RSI at the email address provided in their previous application, reminding them to renew the scholarship. Renewal applications will be prioritized over applications from new students. If a student plans to transfer from a partner school to another school, they should contact RSI before applying for scholarship renewal.

New applicants must be referred to RSI by their Partner School. RSI does not accept applicants who apply without a school referral.

Priority and Non-Priority Public School zoning

RSI operates under the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. This legislation was passed to help students zoned to Priority Schools (previously called Failing Schools) be able to transfer to a school that can better serve the student's academic needs. Priority schools are defined as Public Schools that recently received a D or F on the [Consolidated State Report Card](#). RSI prioritizes new applicants whose primary residence is zoned to a Priority School. However, RSI accepts applicants from all zones.

To verify zoning for public schools, families must complete the Public School Assignment Form (SAF) each year and submit it along with their scholarship application. This form is available at the end of this handbook, on the RSI website, and in the application portal.

Obtaining the SAF from your designated public school can take time, so please plan accordingly.

1. Call the school and ask if someone can verify that your primary residence is zoned to that school. It's best to make an appointment.
2. A representative from this zoned public school must sign the SAF. You will need to provide the school with a copy of the mortgage or rental agreement in the parent or guardian's name, along with two recent utility bills. They may also ask for a birth certificate.
3. OR, if you reside in Baldwin, Birmingham City, Calhoun, Huntsville City, Mobile, Montgomery County, or Trussville City, you can find your school zoning information using the links at the bottom of the SAF form. Please screenshot the results showing your school zoning and home address.

Partner Schools and RSI

RSI currently has eleven Partner schools:

- Advent Episcopal School
- Highlands School
- Indian Springs School
- John Carroll Catholic High School
- Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School
- N. E. Miles Jewish Day School
- Randolph School
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
- The Altamont School
- The Donoho School
- The Montgomery Academy

Each school has its own admission and enrollment procedures. Students must be accepted into one of these schools before applying for an RSI scholarship. Once a student is accepted and the school decides to recommend the student to RSI, the school will provide instructions on how to apply for an RSI scholarship.

If you choose to enroll your student in a Partner School before they have received a scholarship award letter, you could be responsible for all financial obligations that may arise. RSI strongly advises families against enrolling students in a Partner School without an official scholarship award or a financial plan to cover out-of-pocket expenses.

Renaissance Scholarships does not dictate or interfere with the internal policies of our Partner Schools. Each Partner School has the authority to admit or dismiss students based on its policies. Partner Schools typically have their own funding models determining how the scholarships and internal aid are allocated. RSI requires that 100% of the scholarship funds be applied toward the published tuition costs of the awarded students.

What the Scholarship Covers

RSI scholarships must be applied for each year. The scholarship can be used to cover tuition and mandatory academic fees that are listed on a partner school's website. Each partner school informs RSI of the tuition and fees based on the student's grade level. RSI awards up to \$10,000 per student.

Partner schools must provide applicants with a list of tuition and mandatory fees that the scholarship covers. Families should discuss any additional financial obligations not included in the scholarship or not listed on the school's website with the Partner School. Partner schools cannot charge scholarship students at a rate different from other students. RSI cannot cover any fees not included in the published fee schedule.

Any financial responsibilities that exceed the \$10,000 scholarship, or fees or items not covered by the scholarship, are the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Some schools may choose to offer additional financial assistance to students who receive the RSI scholarship. In other cases, parents will need to cover the difference between the RSI scholarship amount and the total cost of tuition and fees. If you have questions about a specific school, please contact them directly to inquire about their tuition and fee schedules. Families must cover any remaining balances to maintain eligibility for the scholarship.

Applying for an RSI Scholarship

Once you are invited to apply for a Renaissance Scholarship, visit <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/RenaissanceScholarship2025> or scan the QR code below. You can complete the application using either a computer or a mobile phone.



1. Create an Account

- a. After entering the web address or scanning the QR code, look for the green box labeled 'Log in to Apply' on the left side of the RSI Kaleidoscope home page.
- b. Please provide an email address and password you can remember. You will use this login information for future access.
- c. If you have multiple children, use the same login but complete separate applications for each child.

2. Application

- a. The application consists of 8 sections.
 - i. Let's Get to Know You!
 - ii. Student Information
 1. In this section, RSI asks: "Were you awarded a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year?"
 - a. There are 7 SGOs registered in Alabama. If the answer is yes, please tell which SGO provided the scholarship
 - i. Current SGO's in Alabama: Scholarships for Kids, Inc (SFK); Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund (AOSF); Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization, Inc; Children's Tuition Fund of Alabama (ACSI); Renaissance Scholarships, Inc (RSI); C2 Opportunity Scholarships, LLC; Deontaye V. Caple Scholarships
 - b. Students can only receive 1 SGO scholarship each year.
 - c. Students may request a transfer to a different SGO, if they want to change schools and their current SGO does not partner with the new school. If the transfer request is approved, the eligibility requirements will be the same as those for a Renewing Applicant.
 2. Another question asks, "Have you applied for the Choose Act funding for this student?"
 - a. Students can only receive funding from an SGO or the Choose Act. It is ok to apply to both funding sources, but you can only accept funding from one.
 - iii. Household Information
 1. Applicants must disclose all family members living in the primary residence. The Alabama Accountability Act defines a "family" as "a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption, including foster care, who reside together."

2. Accordingly, a parent or guardian may apply for a student to whom the applicant is related by birth, marriage, adoption, or who is the legal guardian of an applicant student in foster care, so long as the applicant adult and student reside together.
- iv. Household Financial Information
 1. Each family must submit their annual household income from the previous calendar year when applying for their student(s).
 2. Income Eligibility is determined by a family's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), found on Line 10 of the Alabama State Income Tax Return (AL Form 40).
 - a. Families that do not submit Tax Returns may submit a Statement of Non-Filing (SNF).
 - i. In these situations, RSI determines Income Eligibility by looking at all the financial information submitted.
 3. Income sources include but are not limited to: Prior calendar year Alabama State Income Tax Return (AL Form 40); W2/1099; Social Security Income/Disability for every household member (including children); Child support; Unemployment Compensation; Schedule C (Form 1040)-Business Tax Return, TANF, SNAP, and any other taxable/non-taxable income.
 - a. RSI reviews the entire financial makeup of a family when considering applicants.
 4. Students with IEPs or 504 plans must submit income-verifying documents but will be exempt from the income eligibility requirements.
 - v. School Information
 1. Each year, applicants must provide verification of the public school to which their home is zoned. This requirement comes from the Alabama Accountability Act, which governs the operations of RSI and other SGOs.
 - vi. Document Uploads
 - vii. Special Circumstances
 - viii. Verification
 1. The applying parent or guardian must certify that the scholarship application is complete and accurate, reflecting the true household size, income, and eligibility statements. Misrepresentation or failure to disclose relevant information may lead to refusal or revocation of the scholarship. RSI reserves the right to verify any submitted information.

- b. You must complete all sections to submit the scholarship application. An application will not be considered for eligibility until the application and all required supporting documentation are received.
- c. The application will be open six weeks from the opening date, after which it will close for application reviews.
 - i. The application review process may take several weeks. You will be contacted during this review if anything is missing or if clarification is needed. You must submit the missing documents within 2-weeks of the request.
- d. Once the review is over, the applications will go to RSI for scholarship selection.
 - i. Renewal Applicants and New Applicants from Priority School zones will be notified of their application status first.
 - ii. New Applicants not zoned to Priority Schools and New Applicants currently attending private schools (regardless of school zoning) will be notified of their application status after July 1.
- e. Scholarship awards are dependent on standards outlined in the Alabama Accountability Act, as well as funding availability.
- f. If you encounter any issues with the application, look for the blue 'K' in the bottom right corner. Clicking on it will lead you to a chat feature to help you troubleshoot problems or create a support ticket for further assistance.

The screenshot displays the 'Review Your Application' page for the Renaissance Scholarship 2025. The page is divided into three main sections: a sidebar on the left, a main content area, and a bottom right corner.

Sidebar: Features the Renaissance Scholarships Inc. logo, the text 'Renaissance Scholarship 2025', 'Submit by: N/A', and a link to 'View Program Details'.

Main Content Area: Titled 'Review Your Application', it includes a 'Continue Application' link, a 'Submit' button, and a 'Print Application' button. Below these are two tabs: 'Application' (selected) and 'Documents'. The 'Application' tab lists eight sections with their respective counts and an 'Edit' button for each:

Section	Count
1. Let's Get to Know You!	5
2. Student Information	13
3. Household Information	19
4. Household Financial Information	15
5. School Information	12
6. Document Uploads	5
7. Special Circumstances	3
8. Verification	2

Bottom Right Corner: A blue circular icon with a white 'K' is located in the bottom right corner. A red arrow points to this icon, indicating it is a chat feature for troubleshooting.

Required Documents

The following documents must be submitted to successfully apply for a scholarship.

1. 2024 Alabama State Income Tax Return (AL 40 Form).
 1. If you are not required to file an Income Tax Return, you may provide the following:
[The Statement of Non-Filing \(SNF\)](#).
2. A copy of the mortgage or rental agreement of the primary residence with the parents/guardian's name is listed.
3. Two utility bills dated within the last 2 months with the parents/guardian's name listed.
4. All forms of income you receive, which may include but are not limited to:
 1. 2024 W2(s) or 1099 of the parents/guardians
 2. Social Security Income/Disability for every household member (including children)
 3. Child support
 4. Unemployment Compensation
 5. Schedule C (Form 1040) – Business Tax Return
 6. TANF
 7. SNAP
 8. Any other taxable/non-taxable income.
5. Verification of Alabama [Public School Assignment Form \(SAF\)](#).
 1. A representative from your zoned public school must sign the SAF. You will need to provide the school with a copy of the mortgage or rental agreement in the parent or guardian's name, along with two recent utility bills. They may also ask for a birth certificate.
 2. OR, if you reside in Baldwin, Birmingham City, Calhoun, Huntsville City, Mobile, Montgomery County, or Trussville City, you can find your school zoning information using the links at the bottom of the SAF form. Please screenshot the results showing your school zoning and home address.
6. Applying student's 2024-2025 1st Semester Report Card.
7. If applicable, a copy of the student's IEP or 504 plan.
 1. All IEP and 504 plans must be dated to cover the 25-26 school year.

Standardized Testing

Families awarded an RSI scholarship must comply with the program requirements and reporting obligations under the Alabama Accountability Act. Students receiving a scholarship through the Alabama Accountability Act may be required to take a standardized, norm-referenced test. In 2nd to 8th, 10th, and 11th grade, scholarship recipients must take a Standardized Test. The results of this test must be submitted by the student's partner school to RSI, the Alabama Department of Revenue, and an independent research and evaluation organization (ISSR).

Scholarship Payment Distribution

Scholarship checks are issued directly to the school a student attends. Payments will not be made to the scholarship recipient's parent or guardian. Scholarship checks are distributed twice a school year, in August/September and January.

Adjusting to a New School Environment

Starting at a new school can be challenging for both students and their parents or guardians. At RSI, we understand that some students may need assistance in adjusting to a new school environment. New courses can be more advanced and demanding, and expectations for homework and studying outside of class may be higher. Additionally, the school might have different rules or standards, and these rules may be enforced more strictly.

We encourage parents to maintain regular and open communication with the school, including its counselors and teachers. It is also important to explore tutoring, mentoring, or other support services that may be available to help students succeed.

Student Behavior and Scholarship Obligations

Students who receive scholarships must adhere to all academic and conduct policies set by the school they attend. Schools reserve the right to impose disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion, against students who do not follow these policies and procedures. It is strongly recommended that you thoroughly review the school's policies to ensure your child remains eligible for the scholarship. Renaissance Scholarships, Inc. does not govern school policies regarding student retention due to academic or disciplinary issues.

If a student is expelled from a partner school while on scholarship, they may seek enrollment in another partner school. However, being expelled or failing to gain admission to another partner school may result in the loss of the scholarship or make them ineligible to apply for the scholarship in future academic years.

Transferring Your Student to Another School

If you are not satisfied with your current school or are relocating within Alabama, you may have the option to transfer your RSI scholarship to another eligible school. You can make this transfer, if you have settled any outstanding financial obligations at your previous school. Additionally, you must meet the enrollment criteria of the new school and have remaining funds in your RSI scholarship.

To transfer your scholarships to a different school, please inform both RSI and your current school as soon as possible. Your current school must confirm that you plan to leave. A scholarship cannot be activated at a new school until two conditions are met: (1) you have officially withdrawn from the original partner school, and (2) the original partner school confirms your withdrawal and verifies that there are no outstanding balances owed by your household. If you transfer during the school year, the scholarship funds will be prorated. Parents should check the remaining scholarship funds before making any final decisions.

Withdrawing From the Scholarship Program or Declining a Scholarship

If a parent or guardian decides to withdraw their student from a partner school during the school year, it is important to notify both RSI and the partner school as soon as possible. If you transfer your student to another school in Alabama, you might be able to use your scholarship at the new school, provided that funds are still available.

Withdrawing from the scholarship program does not affect future applications, but you will be considered a "new" applicant for scholarship eligibility in the following years.

A parent or guardian has the option to decline a scholarship. This decision can be made either before or after enrolling in a partner school, resulting in the applicant voluntarily withdrawing from the scholarship program. If a scholarship is declined after enrolling or attending a partner school, the parent will still be financially obligated to the school.

Communication and Updates

It is crucial that RSI can always contact a parent or guardian using the email provided in your application. This email will be used for updates and requests from both RSI and our application portal, Kaleidoscope. Please check your email and online application regularly. If we cannot reach you regarding necessary documentation, your application may be put on hold or declined. RSI is not responsible for any scholarship expirations due to insufficient contact information.

If your contact information changes at any point during the academic year, please remember to update it with RSI.



2025 – 2026 APPLICANT DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

Below is a checklist of documentation required for all Renaissance scholarship applications.

- ☐ 2024 Alabama State Income Tax Return (AL 40 Form).
 - If you are not required to file an Income Tax Return, you may provide the following: [Statement of Non-Filing \(SNF\)](#).
- ☐ A copy of the mortgage or rental agreement of the primary residence with the parents/guardian's name is listed.
- ☐ Two utility bills dated within the last 2 months with the parents/guardian's name listed.
- ☐ All forms of income you receive, which may include but are not limited to:
 - 2024 W2(s) or 1099 of the parents/guardians
 - Social Security Income/Disability for every household member (including children)
 - Child support
 - Unemployment Compensation
 - Schedule C (Form 1040) – Business Tax Return
 - TANF
 - SNAP
 - Any other taxable/non-taxable income.
- ☐ Verification of Alabama [Public School Assignment Form \(SAF\)](#).
 - A representative from your zoned public school must sign the SAF. You will need to provide the school with a copy of the mortgage or rental agreement in the parent or guardian's name, along with two recent utility bills. They may also ask for a birth certificate.
 - OR, if you reside in Baldwin, Birmingham City, Calhoun, Huntsville City, Mobile, Montgomery County, or Trussville City, you can find your school zoning information using the links at the bottom of the SAF form. Please screenshot the results showing your school zoning and home address.
- ☐ Applying student's 2024-2025 1st Semester Report Card.
- ☐ If applicable, a copy of the student's IEP or 504 plan.
 - All IEP and 504 plans must be dated to cover the 25-26 school year.

HOW TO APPLY TO RENAISSANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Step 1:

A student must first be accepted into one of the Participating Schools before applying for a scholarship. Once a student is accepted to a participating school, new applicants will receive instructions on applying for a scholarship. Renewal applicants will receive information from RSI on reapplying for the scholarship.

New Students who apply without a Partner School recommending them to RSI, will be disqualified and their application will not be considered. A school refers a student by informing RSI that they have shared the application documents with the particular family.

Step 2:

Start collecting the **Required Documents** for the scholarship application. You will upload these documents to the online application portal. Please refer to the '2025-2026 Applicant Checklist' for the list of required documents.

Step 3:

RSI will announce when the application cycle starts each year. Renewing students will apply first.

- ☐ Renewal students will start applying on Monday, March 24 at 8am.
- ☐ New applicants can start applying on Monday, April 21st, at 8am.

For more information on how to apply to RSI, please consult the RSI Parent Handbook.

When the application portal opens for your application cycle, visit <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/RenaissanceScholarship2025> or scan the QR code below. You can complete your application using either a computer or a mobile phone.



Step 4:

Check email frequently to see if Kaleidoscope or RSI requests any additional information or clarification.

Step 5:

You will receive a letter about your acceptance, waitlist status, or rejection from RSI. Dates may vary each year.

- ☐ Renewal Applicants and New Applicants from Priority School zones will be notified of their application status first.
- ☐ New Applicants not zoned to Priority Schools and New Applicants currently attending private schools (regardless of school zoning) will be notified of their application status after July 1.



Statement of Non-Filing

****Please submit one for each adult in the house who did not file 2024 State taxes****

This is to certify that I, _____, was not required to file Alabama
(Print Full Name)
State Income Taxes for 2024.

I did not file a state income tax return for 2024 because:

NOTE: If you are currently receiving unemployment benefits, this is equivalent to income.
Please provide a copy of the last 30 days of unemployment payment stubs.

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that the information presented is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that all information provided accurately reflects all of my household income for 2024. The undersigned further understands that providing false representations herein constitutes an act of fraud. False, misleading or incomplete information may result in the denial of the scholarship application or revocation of a scholarship award.

Signature

Date



Verification of Alabama Public School Assignment Form (SAF) SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

An authorized official of the assigned public school system must complete this form. Once completed, please scan/submit the completed form as part of your Renaissance Scholarship application in the TADS Portal. Should you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ludwick at (251) 533-0492.

STUDENT'S NAME:	STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:
STUDENT'S HOME ADDRESS:	
STUDENT'S ZONED PUBLIC SCHOOL:	STUDENT GRADE IN 2025-2026:
IS THE ZONED SCHOOL LISTED AS A PRIORITY SCHOOL ON THE STATE REPORT CARD ? <i>PRIORITY SCHOOLS RECEIVED AN 'D' OR 'F' ON THE STATE REPORT CARD.</i> ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ Not Sure	

☐ ***I certify that the address listed above is zoned to attend the public school specified above.***

PRINTED NAME OF PUBLIC-SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COMPLETING THIS FORM:		
TITLE OF PUBLIC-SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COMPLETING THIS FORM:		
SIGNATURE OF PUBLIC-SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE:	SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER:	DATE:

For residents living in one of the following locations, *you do not need to complete the form above*. Instead, please use the link that appears next to the county or city where you live:

Baldwin County: <http://apps.schoolsitelocator.com/?districtcode=15062#>
Birmingham City: https://app.guidек12.com/birminghamal/school_search/current/
Calhoun County: <https://gis.calhouncounty.org/SchoolDistricts/schooldistricts.html>
Huntsville City: <https://huntsvilleal.gismapsonline.com/schools/defaultjs.aspx>
Mobile County: https://app.guidек12.com/mobileal/school_search/current/
Montgomery County: https://app.guidек12.com/montgomeryal/school_search/current/
Trussville City: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e597fedd17e64e0a87dcea2815fe7b7c>

Enter your physical home address on the corresponding website. It will create either a map or a list of public schools that your students are assigned to attend. Please submit either a printout or a screenshot image of the results to TADS.



Request for Scholarship Transfer

I certify that _____ will not be returning to _____
Student Name *School Name*

for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. This exit is valid as of _____.
Date

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

The scholarship award is attached to the student. The unused funds will be prorated and returned to Renaissance Scholarships. Please complete the portion below if you want the remaining scholarship balance to be considered for another private school. Renaissance Scholarships will review your case, and you will receive a determination letter within 1-week of submitting the form. There is no guarantee the scholarship balance will be awarded to the new school. If your school change is accepted, there is no guarantee the scholarship will be awarded to the new school in subsequent years.

New School

Tuition

School Administrator/ Admission

School Phone Number