



# National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators

## SCATA/NAFEPA Scholarship Program 2026

### Cover Page

#### Purpose

The purpose of the scholarship program is to financially support post-secondary education for qualifying high school seniors attending their first year of college. For **SCATA**, scholarships are awarded at 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$1000); 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$1500); and 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$2000). These are non-renewable. For **NAFEPA**, there are four scholarships, each worth \$5,000, distributed over two consecutive years (\$2,500 each year). Two scholarships are for students pursuing degrees in education. The other two scholarships are awarded to applicants pursuing degrees in any field of study.

#### Eligibility

High school students who are on track to graduate by the conclusion of the 2025-2026 academic year are eligible to apply for the SCATA and NAFEPA scholarships. In addition, the applicant must be enrolled in a public school district or charter school (public school academy) with at least one current SCATA and NAFEPA member. (Contact the SCATA Regional Representative or the State’s NAFEPA Representative who will be able to verify membership). Once the state winners are selected for the state SCATA scholarships, candidates will be nominated by the NAFEPA state affiliate organization or representative for the NAFEPA scholarships. Each state may select one candidate to nominate for the national NAFEPA scholarship program; however, states with more than 100 NAFEPA members, such as South Carolina, may nominate two candidates.

#### Selection Criteria

| Criteria   | Points    |
|--|-----------|
| 1. A personal essay of 350 - 500 words that reflects proper conventions of writing and fully addresses the required discussion points (See Application Checklist for discussion points.) | 50 points |
| 2. GPA, based on the applicant’s Spring 2025 High School transcript.   | 20 points |
| 3. School, community, service, leadership and/or work activities and experiences in which the applicant participated during grades 9-12, including leadership positions held.            | 15 points |
| 4. Three letters of recommendation including a letter from the student’s high school principal or administrative designee, a faculty member/advisor, and a non-family member.            | 15 points |

#### Scholarship Payment

The full amount of each scholarship will be made payable to the institution of the recipient’s choice for the 2026-27 academic year. It is the responsibility of each scholarship recipient to forward enrollment verification and a tuition invoice from the institution to the SCATA Secretary-Treasurer. If a candidate from SC wins the NAFEPA award, enrollment verification and a tuition invoice from the institution must be sent to the NAFEPA Representative/scholarship chairperson. Please note that the scholarship is paid directly to the institution.

#### Application Process

##### **Student Applicant:**

1. Complete the application and attach all required information. **Use one-sided pages only. Separate the packets using paper clips or a folder. No staples, please.**
2. Submit two copies of the completed application packet (**one original and one copy**) to your school’s guidance office to forward to the district Title I Director or Federal Program Director.
3. The school district will select a winner for the Regional Competition.



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### Regional Representatives:

1. Convene a meeting to review and determine winners for the region. Please select a 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner.
2. Forward the winning application packets to both of the State's NAFEPA Representatives by **January 14, 2026** at the addresses below:

*Ms. Kristy Cansler  
Charter Institute at Erskine  
Office of Federal Programs  
1201 Main Street, Suite 2500  
Columbia, SC 29201*

*Dr. Beth Brooks  
The School District of Newberry County  
Office of Instructional Services  
3419 Main Street  
Newberry, SC 29108*

*Note: A committee will be selected to review the applications and select a state 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner for the state SCATA Scholarships.*

### **NAFEPA Scholarships:**

1. Ms. Cansler and Dr. Brooks will forward two copies of each state's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners' application packet to the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee Representative. Applications must be postmarked by **February 1, 2026**.
2. Forward each State nominee's photo to the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee Rep by **February 1, 2026**, if applicable.

**Additional Questions?** Contact the State's NAFEPA Representative Dr. Denise Ling, [lingd@bcstdschools.net](mailto:lingd@bcstdschools.net).



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## SCATA/NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026

### Application Checklist and Cover Sheet

Applicants must submit *two copies of the application packet* - the Original Packet, plus one copy.

- Print or copy one-sided only.
- Please use paper clips or a folder to separate the two packets. No staples, please.
- Use this Checklist as a cover sheet for each Packet.

A completed Scholarship Application Packet includes ALL of the following documents and ALL required signatures.

- Completed Scholarship Application Form, including this Checklist and all four parts;
- Application Checklist, with applicant’s signature and date
  - Part 1: State NAFEPA Representative Information
  - Part 2: Applicant’s Information
  - Part 3: List of School, Community, Service, Leadership, and Work Activities/Experiences
  - Part 4: Certification of Applicant’s High School Completion Status by high school principal (Applicant – Please add the date the principal is to return this form to you.)

Fall 2025 High School transcript

Three letters of recommendation:

1. One from the applicant’s high school principal or administrative designee (on school/district letterhead)
2. One from a faculty member or advisor (on school/district letterhead)
3. One from a non-family member

Personal Essay (typed, about 350 - 500 words) in which the applicant:

1. Explains the reasons for applying for the scholarship.
2. Describes a personal experience with adversity and the impact on self;
3. Describes an experience when the applicant demonstrated leadership skills or qualities and the impact on self or others;
4. Describes an experience when the applicant demonstrated personal responsibility and the impact on self or others; AND
5. Discusses future goals and why they are important.

Use the Application Checklist with the Applicant’s Signature as a Cover Sheet

Initials - My initials verify my understanding that to be eligible for the NAFEPA Scholarships, I must be enrolled in a public school district or charter school (public school academy) with at least one current NAFEPA member.

Contact the State’s NAFEPA Representative (found at <https://nafepa.org/Board-of-Directors>) for the State’s NAFEPA membership directory.

Applicant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**State NAFEPA Representative’s Signature:** By signing below, I verify that our state nominates this applicant for the 2026 NAFEPA scholarships and confirm that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

**STATE NAFEPA Rep’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE NAFEPA Rep’s Full Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Photo will be sent: \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No**



**SCATA/NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
**2026**

**Part 1: State NAFEPA Representative** (To be completed by the State NAFEPA Representative.)

Name of State Representative:

Nominating State:

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**Part 2: Applicant's Information** (To be completed by the applicant.)

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to pursue a degree in: \_\_\_\_\_

| Institutional Preferences |  | Estimated Tuition and Educational Expenses | Date Accepted (if applicable) |
|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice    |  |  |                               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice    |  |  |                               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice    |  |  |                               |

**Part 3: School, Community, Service, Leadership, and Work Activities/Experiences**

Please list activities in which you have actively participated during high school (grades 9-12), either at school or outside of school. Include any leadership positions or roles you might have held with school or community groups or organizations. For each activity, put the number of years you participated in parentheses. [Ex. *Debate Team (2 yrs)*]. (Include as an attachment, if preferred.)

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**SCATA/NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
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**Part 4: Certification of Applicant's High School Completion Status**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the High School Principal:**

By checking this box, I certify that this student is a high school senior and is currently on track to meet the established criteria for obtaining a high school diploma by the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year.

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form to the applicant by:** \_\_\_\_\_

(The Applicant must include a Return Date.)