



District 883

# Dollars for Scholars®

Dear RHS Seniors and Parents,

District 883 Dollars for scholars has awarded thousands of dollars to Rockford High School seniors every year since the chapter was formed in 1986. In order to apply for these scholarships, you must complete a student profile in the DFS ChapterNet website. In the spring, you will then be able to submit applications for scholarships you qualify for.

Here's how you start:

- Go to the DFS ChapterNet website <http://district883.dollarsforscholars.org>
- Click on the **Students & Parents** tab to get to the log in page.
  - o If you haven't created a profile yet, click on the link directly above the login box.
  - o Follow directions provided to set up your account. Please use an email that is not associated with RHS.
- Once logged into your profile on the DFS website, go to the **My Information** section and start updating your details in each area noted below. The dashboard on the left monitors your progress. You may update profile entries until the deadline. See tips on page 2 for additional guidance on more complex sections.

<b>Basic Information</b> complete now	<b>Additional Information</b> complete now	<b>Schools</b> complete now; update later
<b>GPA</b> (weighted GPA; 4.0 scale) complete now; update later	<b>Class Rank (RHS uses integer)</b> complete now; update later	<b>Test Scores</b> (ACT, SAT) complete now; update later
<b>Activities</b> (see TIPS) complete now; update later	<b>Awards</b> (financial scholarships) complete now; update later	<b>Employment</b> complete now; update later
<b>Documents (mark as DONE)</b> our chapter has no req'd docs	<b>Parent/Guardian Info</b> (see TIPS) required if under 16; see below	<b>Financial Info</b> (see TIPS) optional; see below
<b>Essays</b> (see TIPS) complete ASAP	<b>Personal Reference</b> (see TIPS) request by end of Feb; see below	<b>Transcripts</b> (see TIPS) request now; see below

- Once you have started your profile, you can start matching to available scholarships under the **My Scholarships** section.
  - o Local DFS scholarships open on February 1; national scholarships may have earlier dates (profile is linked to FASTWEB).
  - o As you continue updating your profile, keep searching for matching scholarships and answer qualifying questions.
  - o Complete any custom questions required and apply for all scholarships you've matched to immediately.

**Deadline for the CLASS OF 2026 to complete DFS profiles and apply for local DFS scholarships is FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute!!**

If you have questions about completing your profile or applying for specific scholarships, please reach out to our DFS contact below. Congratulations on your senior year and good luck!

**Karen Nielsen**

**612-719-1703**

[karennielsen247@gmail.com](mailto:karennielsen247@gmail.com)

## TIPS FOR COMPLETING YOUR DFS PROFILE

- **GPA**
  - RHS uses weighted GPAs on a 4.0 scale.
  - List your cumulative GPA only; grade level detail is not required.
- **CLASS RANK**
  - RHS uses the integer method and the current class size is 124.
- **FINANCIAL INFO**
  - Parent and/or personal financial information is only required if you plan to apply for scholarships which have criteria based on financial need.
- **PARENT INFO**
  - Parental consent is required to apply for scholarships only if student is under 16.
- **ACTIVITIES**
  - Enter all activities you participated from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades **ONLY**, including:
    - All Rockford HS extra-curricular sports/clubs/organizations you participated in plus honors received
      - make separate entries for Varsity Band, Concert Band, Flags, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Varsity Choir, A Capella Choir, and Chamber Choir (if applicable) in order to qualify for scholarships specifically for students involved in music programs
      - include honor band/choir recognitions, offices held, solo/ensemble contest awards
      - no need to fill in detailed address or description if the activity is obvious
    - All outside school activities you participated in (community service; church; community groups or organizations; organized sports)
      - classify the type of activity based on the available drop-down options
      - include a description and address of the organization if it is not common knowledge
      - accurately track **VOLUNTEER** hours and record under **Community Service**
      - court-mandated volunteer hours do not count and should not be included
- **ESSAYS – Goals/Aspirations, Unusual Circumstances**
  - All essays you write should be **anonymous**. Please do not use your name, a family member's name, family business name, etc. in your essays. This allows us to score the results objectively.
  - Be advised that all essay entries are 100% confidential and will only be reviewed by our scoring/evaluation committee. They only see your DFS ID#, not your name.
- **PERSONAL REFERENCE**
  - Think about who you will ask to be your personal reference; complete the reference request as early as possible so they have time to comply.
  - This is not for a letter of recommendation. You'll enter their email address and they will be directed to an online site to answer specific questions on your behalf.
  - Be sure you use the correct email address. Follow up with your chosen reference early to ensure they have received the request and they provide their feedback by the application deadline.
- **TRANSCRIPT:**
  - Submit the official transcript request immediately to import your final GPA/class rank when ready.
  - This request should go to the RHS school counselor: **Samantha Bloom** ([samantha.bloom@rockford883.org](mailto:samantha.bloom@rockford883.org)) phone number is 763-477-5846.