



2026

CGCS-PETERS PHARIS FOUNDATION MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Scholarships will be awarded in June 2026

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APRIL 13, 2026

For questions, please visit www.cgcs.org/2026_mathscience_scholarship
or email tharris@cgcs.org

CGCS-Peters Pharis Foundation Math and Science Scholarship Program

2026 Application Guidelines

MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Albuquerque
Anchorage
Arlington, Texas
Atlanta
Aurora
Austin
Baltimore
Birmingham
Boston
Bridgeport
Broward County
Buffalo
Charleston
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Chicago
Cincinnati
Clark County
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
Dayton
Denver
Des Moines
Detroit
District of Columbia
Durham
Duval County
East Baton Rouge
El Paso
Fayette County
Fort Worth
Fresno
Guilford County
Hawaii
Hillsborough County
Houston
Indianapolis
Jackson
Jefferson County, Kentucky
Jersey City
Kansas City
Little Rock
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Madison
Memphis-Shelby
Metropolitan Nashville
Miami-Dade County
Milwaukee
Minneapolis
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Norfolk
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Orange County, Florida
Palm Beach County
Philadelphia
Pinellas County, Florida
Pittsburgh
Portland, Oregon
Providence
Puerto Rico
Richmond
Rochester
Sacramento
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Ana
Seattle
St. Louis
St. Paul
Toledo
Tulsa
Wake County
Washoe County
Wichita
Winston-Salem/Forsyth

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Council of the Great City Schools and the Peters Pharis Foundation strongly believe that education is key to progress, development, and economic growth in our country. Together, they have developed a partnership to increase awareness about the need for more math and science graduates, especially among underserved populations.

Four scholarships for two boys and two girls, with a value of \$10,000 each, will be awarded in June 2026 to students currently completing their senior year of high school in a member district of the Council of the Great City Schools (see list of member districts on left).

Applicants must be accepted for full-time enrollment at a four-year college or university in the next academic year and pursuing a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM).

We strongly encourage students to apply who are either underserved, defined as coming from low socioeconomic means (which may be indicated by expected parent contribution to college or qualification for free or reduced-price lunch); the first member of their family to attend college; from a family with an absence of science and engineering degrees; or from a high school with low admittance rates to top-tier colleges.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Council of the Great City Schools. Recipients will be notified in June. The scholarship can be applied to tuition and related expenses during the 2026-2027 academic school year.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

To apply for the 2026 scholarship, this application must be submitted online by **April 13, 2026**. Click [here](https://www.cgcs.org/about-cgcs/awards-and-scholarships/math-and-science-scholarship) to apply or go to: <https://www.cgcs.org/about-cgcs/awards-and-scholarships/math-and-science-scholarship>

Applications should include evidence of the applicant's academic achievement in high school, leadership skills or community service in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics and the applicant's commitment to pursue a career in a STEM field. To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must have a minimum 3.5 unweighted grade point average and have been accepted as a full-time student at a four-year institution of higher education. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.

Applicants will have to submit a list of STEM courses taken, a one-page essay, a high school transcript and have two people complete a short recommendation form. Applicants do not have to be a United States citizen.

No person may receive more than one award administered by the Council of the Great City Schools in the same academic year.

*All applicants must attend a public school in a Council of the Great City Schools district. Go to: <https://www.cgcs.org/member-services/member-districts-list> to find the list of CGCS districts.

CGCS-Peters Pharis Foundation Math and Science Scholarship Program

2026 Sponsor

PETERS PHARIS FOUNDATION

Who They Are

The Peters Pharis Foundation is an independent private foundation established in 2018 by Bruce and Aulana Peters. Informed and motivated by their own life experience, the Peters firmly believe that while earning a college degree is not the only route to personal development and achievement, it is one that has been proven over time and generations to be a path toward meaningful change in the social and economic circumstances of the poor. The Peters both come from modest circumstances and were the first in their immediate family to attend college. They both earned bachelor's degrees from their respective colleges and went on to earn graduate degrees—he in medicine and she in law.

After decades of financial support for their respective alma maters and contributions to numerous charities over time, the Peters decided to focus their charitable giving on endowing scholarship in the honor of Mrs. Peters' mother and on establishing a foundation.

The Eula Mae Pharis Endowed Fellowship was established in 2017 at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, Mrs. Peters hometown. The creation of the Peters Pharis Foundation followed in 2018.

Priorities

The foundation is a grant-making organization which works with other nonprofit entities to assist high-performing students from low-income families to realize their full potential through higher education. <https://peterspharisfoundation.org/>

Math and Science Scholarship Recipient



“ THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS GREATLY IMPACTED MY LIFE. IT HAS NOT ONLY REDUCED MY TUITION BURDEN BUT IS ALSO ENABLING ME TO OBTAIN A COLLEGE DEGREE AND PURSUE MY DREAM OF BECOMING AN ENGINEER. ”

Christopher Watkins is a graduate of Chicago Public Schools and received a \$5,000 Math and Science Scholarship in 2025. He is majoring in engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.