March 18, 2026

Dear Student, Guidance Counselor or Paraprofessional:

The Capital Area Education Association is pleased to announce the 2026 CAEA Special Education Scholarship Program.

Amount: One $500.00 scholarship will be awarded.

Eligibility: Two groups of individuals are eligible to apply.

1. Students currently attending a secondary school served by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit who are planning to enroll in a post-secondary program which leads to a degree in Special Education, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education or School Psychology. **The intent of the applicant must be to eventually work with students with special needs.**

2. Paraprofessionals currently working for the CAIU, who are volunteer members of the Capital Area Education Association, and who are planning to enroll or are already enrolled in a post-secondary program which leads to a degree in Special Education, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education, or School Psychology. **The intent of the applicant must be to eventually work with students with special needs.**

Timeline:
Printed and completed applications are due by April 30, 2026. It is important that **all** sections of the four page application be completed. Other required documents: **include a copy of the school transcript and at least two reference letters**. Duplicate the application as needed. Results will be announced by May 15, 2026.

Mail applications to: Mrs. Emily Sidelinger
600 Lisburn Rd.
Wellsville, PA 17365
(If you wish to be notified that your application has been received, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

Questions: Please e-mail Emily Sidelinger at esidelinger@caiu.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Sidelinger
CAEA Scholarship Chairperson

CAPITAL AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print or type neatly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Phone: _____

Secondary email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian/Spouse's Name: _____

Ages of Siblings: _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Other Schooling beyond High School: _____

Cumulative Average: _____

Extra-Curricular Activities: _____

Honors: _____

ALL APPLICANTS:

Volunteer Experiences or Paid Work Experiences:

_____

_____

College you plan to attend or are attending: _____

College Address: _____

_____

College Phone Number: _____

College Acceptance Date: _____ Major **and** Anticipated Occupation: _____

High School Guidance Counselor's Name: _____

High School Guidance Counselor's telephone number: _____

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Please include a copy of your high school transcript as of this application date. Applications missing their school transcript will receive an automatic 0 for this section on the scoring rubric.

CAIU EMPLOYEES:

Please include a copy of your college transcript as of this application date (if already enrolled). If unsure of what transcript to submit, please contact Emily Sidelinger.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Estimated Expenses

Your cost of attendance for 2026-27 school year:

Tuition: _____

Room & board: _____

Books, supplies, etc.: _____

TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE: _____

Your Resources Available for yearly college costs:

1) Your personal savings for 2026-27 academic year college expenses: _____
2) Your expected earnings (after withholdings) during 2026-27 academic year to be used for college expenses: _____
3) Parents' and other relatives' expected contribution to college expenses during the 2026-27 academic year from savings, payments, 529 plans, and other sources: _____
4) Scholarships & Grants- Amount of ALL funding sources you are receiving for 2026-27 academic year that you do NOT have to pay back (i.e. scholarships, grants, Social Security, Veterans Benefits, etc.): _____

Total Resources Available for 2026-27 academic year (total of #'s 1-4): _____

Excess or Gap between Available Resources and Estimated Expenses: _____

If needed, will you apply for loans? _____

For what other scholarships have you applied?

_____

_____

_____

List your reasons for requesting financial aid. Indicate any extenuating circumstances, financial or personal, that you or your family have, which would assist the scholarship committee in its selection:

Please explain why you intend to pursue a career in Special Education. Explain any specific activities, persons, or events which have influenced your decision to become a Special Education teacher. If more space is needed, attach an additional sheet.

Please list any experiences you have had working with people with special needs.
(If more space is needed, attach an additional sheet.)

References: Please attach a letter from **each** of your references. **At least one reference MUST be from a person who has knowledge of your interest and/or experience in the field of your anticipated occupation.**

First Reference:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone Number: _____

Second Reference:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail completed application with **all** information (school transcript and reference letters) to:

Emily Sidelinger
600 Lisburn Rd.
Wellsville, PA 17365

Completed 4-page applications with transcript and reference letters must be received by April 30, 2026.