Grow Your Own
Duplin County Teachers Scholarship – Loan

The Duplin County Board of Education has established the Grow Your Own Scholarship – Loan. The scholarship provides $5,000.00 per year for a maximum of four years to five graduating seniors who plan to pursue a career in education. To apply, seniors must have an unweighted GPA of 3.0, be graduating from one of the Duplin County high schools, and must be a current resident of Duplin County who plans to enroll in a community college or university in the fall. Applications must include the following:

- a completed application form,
- an official high school transcript,
- verification of SAT/ACT,
- a valid letter of acceptance from a community college or university, and
- completed Reference Forms from at least two persons who can attest to the applicant's potential capacity as a future teacher.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Duplin County Schools Human Resources Department by noon on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. All application material is confidential.

All applications will be reviewed. Interviews will be conducted May 4 - May 8, 2026. Scholarship-Loan recipients will be informed of the committee's decision by letter by May 15, 2026.

Each Grow Your Own Scholarship – Loan recipient must be **enrolled as a full-time (minimum of 12 hours) student** at a community college or university and will be **required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 each semester**. Scholarship recipients must also maintain appropriate credit hours by the end of the freshman year and each semester thereafter. **Each scholarship recipient must be admitted into a teacher education program by the end of the first semester of his or her junior year.**

Grow Your Own Scholarship – Loan recipients will repay this debt by teaching in Duplin County Schools as a full-time licensed teacher for four years.

Any false or inaccurate information on the application or plagiarized content on the essay would be grounds for immediate disqualification.

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Applicant Information

Applicant Name		Date of Birth	
Mailing Address		Cell Number	
Personal Email		Social Security	
High School			
Race/Ethnicity (check one or more):	African American ☐	Asian ☐	American Indian ☐
	Hispanic ☐	Other ☐ _____	

Parent Information

Parent Name		Date of Birth	
Mailing Address		Cell Number	
		Alt. Number	
Personal Email		Social Security	

Legal Residency

By my signature, I, the parent/guardian of the applicant, affirm that the applicant is a legal resident of Duplin County. I affirm that I qualify as a legal resident, for purposes of domicile (own property, registered to vote, pay state income taxes, etc.) in the state of North Carolina. *If you have any questions, contact the Duplin County Schools Human Resources Department.*

_____ _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

The following information must be completed by your guidance counselor.

Un-Weighted GPA (Un-Weighted Scale)				Highest SAT Composite			
Highest Essay Score		_____ ACT / SAT		Highest ACT Composite (Converted)			
ACT		Composite		Essay		Date	
SAT							
Verbal		Math		Essay		Date	

_____ _____

Signature of Guidance Counselor Date

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SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Academic Year	Organization/Community Event	Leadership Role
Freshman		
Sophomore		
Junior		
Senior		

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EMPLOYMENT

Please list any jobs you have held, whether during the school or summer.

Employer	Position	Dates	Hours/Week

Hobbies and Special Interests *(Please describe.)*

Honors and Awards *(Please list.)*

List below your intended Community College/University *(Remember to attach proof of acceptance.)*

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Describe why you want to teach. *(Please include the major and grade level you think you will pursue.)*
Tell us about your path to a career in education and why you chose it. Perhaps you had an amazing teacher that brought so much love and compassion to their work that it inspired you to want to be a teacher one day too… perhaps overcoming your own struggles with learning motivated your decision to enter the field to help others with similar challenges… or perhaps your greatest joy is sharing the subject you love so much through the act of helping others appreciate it too.

I certify that the information contained on this application and in the application packet is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that to falsify information is grounds for declining my application to receive the Grow Your Own Duplin County Teachers Scholarship-Loan.

I understand the obligation to work for Duplin County Schools for four years if awarded this scholarship loan.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Grow Your Own
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REFERENCE FORM

To The Referent: This reference will enable the Grow Your Own Scholarship – Loan Committee to better evaluate applicants applying for the scholarship. You are asked to complete the form and seal it in an envelope with your signature written across the seal. Please return the sealed envelope to the applicant. These will be forwarded to the committee as a part of the applicant's file. This reference is confidential and will only be read by the screening committee. Your candid response will be most helpful in the selection of future teachers for Duplin County. Please use the space provided – do not attach additional sheets.

APPLICANT'S NAME:

Please indicate how often you have observed each of the following traits by circling the appropriate rating by each, using the following scale:

R – Rare O – Occasionally F – Frequently NA – Not Applicable

R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Brings new dimensions to topics of discussion or activities
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Seeks the best solution for a challenging situation
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Works beyond assignments
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Seeks knowledge for its own sake
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Is interested in activities and topics beyond the typical interest of his or her peer group
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Does not fear being different; is willing to take a stand when appropriate even in the face of opposition
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Plans future activities; sets long-term goals
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Takes responsibility for his or her own actions
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Exhibits leadership by initiating activities within a group
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Exhibits flexibility when dealing with change or new situations
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Is gracious when fulfilling unpleasant tasks
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Has the respect of his or her teachers
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Has the respect of his or her peers
R	**O**	**F**	**NA**	Has expressed an interest in teaching

Respond to the following questions in the space provided only.

1. What one trait of this applicant do you think will be the strongest indication of his or her likely success as a superior teacher?

2. How do you know this applicant? How long have you known this applicant?

Signature of Referent: _____ **Date:** _____

Address of Referent: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

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