



First Literacy Scholarships 2021-2022

GENERAL INFORMATION for Both New and Continuing Applications

Purpose

First Literacy Scholarships recognize and reward adult learners who have completed their ABE studies—including ESOL, High School Equivalency, and Bridge to College—and who are continuing to higher education or skills training. Scholarships are awarded based on candidates’

- educational achievement and potential;
- perseverance in face of hardship, and
- service as role models for their families, peers, or communities.

2021-2022 Scholarship Awards

- First Literacy Scholarships are \$1,500 each (an increase of 50%).
- First Literacy Scholarships are NOT for graduate work.
- First Literacy will award scholarships to deserving and promising individuals, as well as a limited number of **Continuing Scholarships** to past recipients. Continuing Scholarship applications will be emailed directly to current scholarship recipients.
- Returning Scholars can apply for a scholarship **each year for up to 4 years in total**, including the first year. Proof of classes completed and grades are part of the Continuing Scholar application.
- As funds permit, First Literacy might award one additional special category scholarship to a particularly deserving recipient.

Eligibility

- First Literacy Scholarships are for adults who have completed or will have completed their basic education studies between April 30, 2019 and June 30, 2021 at a community-based ABE program, a free preparatory program offered by a local higher education institution, or a volunteer-based program serving basic education needs of adults in Massachusetts.
- **Before applying for a First Literacy Scholarship, applicants need to have proof of acceptance to a community college, a four-year college, or an accredited vocational training program of one year or longer.**
- A maximum of **two applications per program under the same 501(c)(3) will be accepted.**
- Programs may assist students throughout the application process, but applicants must write their own personal statements.

Continued

General Information, continued

- Scholarship recipients must report on their progress to First Literacy in January and July, either in person at a Winter meeting hosted by First Literacy, or by filling out a form emailed to them by First Literacy.
 - Students who are awarded a scholarship, but who are unable to pursue their studies as planned, must inform First Literacy within one month after stopping their studies.
 - Past First Literacy scholars who have maintained contact with First Literacy and have fulfilled our simple reporting requirements will be invited to apply for another year of scholarship funding. Applications will be sent directly to these scholars, who may apply on their own, without connecting with their former ABE programs.
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APPLICATION PROCESS

New Scholarship Applicants

- Students interested in applying for a scholarship should consult with their teachers or advisors in their ABE program.
- Programs are encouraged to help identify candidates—a maximum of two per 501(c)(3) program.
- Two letters of recommendation are required of each applicant. At least one of these letters must be from an ABE program staff member (teacher, advisor, administrator).
- Applications, letters of recommendation, and copies of letters of acceptance must be submitted together as attachments ***in one email*** to bmccormick@firstliteracy.org.
- ***Please do not send documents one at a time. In the subject line, write: New Scholarship Application.***
- A complete application package is **due no later than June 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM.**
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- All scholarship finalists are required to participate in a 30-minute interview at a date and time scheduled between June 3 and June 22, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting.
- Applicants will be notified by Monday, June 28, 2021.
- Scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony held in Summer 2021. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Continuing Scholarship Applicants

- One letter of recommendation from a professor where the scholar is studying is required. Additional letters are accepted.
- Applications, letters of recommendation, copies of Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 transcripts and evidence of registration for the next academic year must be submitted together as attachments in ***one email*** to bmccormick@firstliteracy.org. ***Please do not send documents one at a time. In the subject line, write Continuing Scholarship Application.***
- A complete application package is **due no later than June 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM.**
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- Applicants will be notified by Monday, June 28, 2021
- Scholarships will be awarded at a ceremony held in July or August 2021. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend.

Questions? Please contact Bryan McCormick, Program Director, at bmccormick@firstliteracy.org.