



First Literacy Scholarships 2023-2024

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 the face of hardship
- Service as role models for their families, peers, or communities

2023-2024 NEW and CONTINUING Scholarships Description

First Literacy will award scholarships to deserving and promising individuals, as well as a limited number of Continuing Scholarships to past recipients.

- First Literacy Scholarships are \$1,500 each
- First Literacy Scholarships are NOT for graduate work
- Returning Scholars can apply for a Continuing Scholarship each year for up to four years in total, including the first year. Transcripts are required.
- [Information Session for Programs](#): Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 3pm via Zoom.

Eligibility

First Literacy Scholarships are for adults who have completed or will have completed their adult basic education (ABE) studies between April 30, 2021, and June 30, 2023, at a community-based ABE program, a free preparatory program offered by a local higher education institution, or a volunteer-based program serving the basic education needs of adults in Massachusetts.

- A maximum of **5 applications per program under the same 501(c)(3) can be submitted and a maximum of 2 will be awarded (*please note that this is a new policy*)**.
- Programs may assist students throughout the application process, but applicants must write their own personal statements.
- Scholarship recipients must report on their progress to First Literacy in January and June, 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.
- First Literacy scholars who have maintained contact with First Literacy and have fulfilled our simple reporting requirements will be invited to apply for a Continuing Scholarship. A link to the Continuing Scholarship Application online will be sent directly to these scholars who may apply on their own, without connecting with their former ABE (Adult Basic Education) programs.

(Continued on next page)

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application must be completed online (for the application link go to [First Literacy Scholarships](#)). Applicants will be asked to create a login, so they will be able to save drafts of their application to return to later, if necessary, before completing and submitting. **Applications and all accompanying material will not be accepted via email, and late submissions will not be considered.** Applicants are encouraged to plan ahead!

New Scholarship Applicants

Students interested in applying for a scholarship must consult with their teachers or advisors in their ABE program. Programs are encouraged to help identify candidates— **A maximum of 5 applications per program under the same 501(c)(3) can be submitted and a maximum of 2 will be awarded (*please note that this is a new policy*).**

- **NEW Scholarship applicants MUST be nominated by their ABE program;** the application process begins with the program, not with the applicant.
- **Applications, with the documents listed below, must be submitted online, with the application, no later than Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 5:00 PM.**
 - Proof of acceptance to a community college, a four-year college, or an accredited vocational training program of one year or longer
 - Applicant's personal statement
 - 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).
- All NEW scholarship finalists are required to participate in a 30-minute interview at a date and time scheduled between June 1 and June 16, 2023. This will be a virtual meeting.
- **Applicants will be notified by Thursday, June 29, 2023.**

Continuing Scholarship Applicants

A link to the Continuing Scholarship application online will be emailed directly to current scholarship recipients who may apply on their own, without connecting with their former ABE (Adult Basic Education) programs.

- **Applications, with the documents listed below, must be submitted online, with the application, no later than Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 5:00 PM.**
 - Your Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 transcripts,
 - Evidence of registration for the next academic year,
 - Your plan for the coming Academic Year (number of classes, cost, and financial need),
 - Letter of recommendation from a professor at the college or certificate training program where you are studying.
- **Applicants will be notified by Thursday, June 29, 2023**

Scholarship Awards

Scholarship award certificates will be presented at a ceremony held in Summer 2023. Scholarship recipients are required to attend.

(Continued on next page)

First Literacy Scholarships 2023-2024 (continued)

Before Scholarship awards will be paid to the recipient's school, First Literacy MUST receive the following:

- First Literacy Photo Permission Form (provided by First Literacy)
- Proof that scholar has created a LinkedIn account and is following First Literacy
- Head shot of scholarship recipient
- Permission form authorizing First Literacy to speak to the recipient's school about their financial status and class progress (form provided by First Literacy)

Scholarship recipients will be required to attend the following events through the academic year:

- Scholar Ceremony: August 2023. Date TBD by the Mayor's office
- Scholar Workshop: October 5, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Scholar Potluck: January 10, 2024

Do you have questions about these scholarships or the online application? Please contact Bryan McCormick, Program Director, at bmccormick@firstliteracy.org.