

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Local Scholarship Program

If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.

If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose,
You're lost.

For out in the world we find success begins
with an individual's will.

It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't always go to
the stronger or faster person.

But sooner or later the one who wins
is the one who thinks he can.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Scholarship and Financial Aid Information

A number of community, state, national and federal businesses and organizations support students of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District through scholarship and loan offerings. These scholarship and loan opportunities are designed to help graduating seniors supplement financial aid for post-high school education in higher education, vocational, and trade programs.



LOCAL/STATE/NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- One Stop Student Portal - comprehensive local scholarship listings with some state/national offerings as well; maintained by KPBSD personnel, this link is available through individual school's Edline – Counselor's Corner pages or at <http://onestop.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/>
- Individual School Sites – check with individual school Counseling Offices for additional listings that may not yet be posted to the One Stop Student Portal
- Alaska Career Information System – provided to each KPBSD school site through state funding, the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) is a comprehensive education and career planning resource. The Financial Aid Sort feature allows you to search through a large database of both scholarships and loans. AKCIS should be available on individual school's Edline site under their Counselor's Corner.
- Scholarship search engines – create a user profile and match your abilities, interests, and talents to relevant scholarships. Sample search engines include fastweb.com and BrokeScholar.com (NOTE: these search engines are free of charge; be wary of organizations that charge fees and promise to find you financial aid)

FAFSA and STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

- FAFSA – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine eligibility for certain types of federal financial aid such as grants, scholarships, and work-study. This is a free process which is most efficiently done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Submitting a form through the mail is also an option; however, processing time is considerably longer. Many educational institutions require that a FAFSA be submitted regardless of family financial status.
- Student Loan Opportunities – Once all available grant/scholarship options are exhausted, many students look to student loans to complete their financial aid package. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education at www.alaskadvantage.state.ak.us is one source of student financial aid products and services designed to increase access to the benefits of higher education. Banks and other lending institutions are other options for student loans.

There are currently two local events that are scheduled annually to assist students and their families travel through the financial aid process:

- Financial Aid Night – Usually scheduled in early November, this event is co-hosted by Central Peninsula high schools and Kenai Peninsula College. The event seeks to demystify the financial aid process with an overview of the FAFSA, student loan programs, and the local scholarship process.

- College Goal Sunday - Traditionally offered shortly after Super Bowl Sunday – and conveniently just prior to tax season – College Goal Sunday provides on-site, detailed expert assistance with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



SCHOLARSHIP FOLDERS AND APPLICATIONS

The majority of scholarships awarded by local businesses and agencies require that a **Scholarship Folder** be submitted in order for the student to be considered. Most of these opportunities are offered in the spring, although a few, such as the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce with a December deadline, that make it beneficial to complete a scholarship folder as early as possible. Individual schools may have specific deadlines for scholarship folders to be submitted to the Counseling Office. In addition to a scholarship folder, some scholarship opportunities may require completion of specific forms in order to be considered. Students are encouraged to type, rather than hand write, the applications.

Scholarship eligibility rules may vary for each organization but, in general, applicants are considered on the basis of potential success, scholastic promise, citizenship, and financial need. Some scholarships will instruct the student to mail in the application directly; others will need to be returned to the Counseling Office by a posted due date. Be sure to check the application for specific directions and deadlines.

One persistent myth is that scholarships are only given to the very high-end student. In reality, there are scholarships for all types of students (various GPA categories, students not receiving other aid, specific vocational fields, etc.) to attend varying types of post-secondary institutions (2- and 4-colleges/universities, vocational schools, etc.) Please be aware, however, that while many students are deserving of scholarships, not every student will receive this type of assistance. Completion of a scholarship folder does not automatically guarantee a scholarship; however, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING A SCHOLARSHIP FOLDER:

All students wishing to apply for a scholarship awarded by a local organization should prepare a SCHOLARSHIP FOLDER. The folder should contain:



- Transcript of grades
- Completed application (found on the following pages)
- Three letters of recommendation (minimum)
- Personal Essay

Most Counseling Offices require multiple copies (3-5) of the Scholarship Folder to be submitted by a specific date. Remember that some organizations will take and keep individual scholarship folders from the school. Students are responsible for keeping sufficient copies available in the Counseling Office and should maintain the original copy.

SCHOLARSHIP FOLDER HINTS

1. Your folder represents your qualities as a candidate. Present your information neatly and accurately. Have someone **PROOFREAD** your essay to look for spelling and grammatical errors.
2. If you are not an accurate typist, find someone who is!
3. Keep margins as even as possible.
4. Division of words should be minimal.
5. Do not fold application or letters. Envelopes are not required.
6. Read through the instructions carefully and follow them precisely.
7. Listen for announcements of deadlines. Meet **ALL** deadlines. Be neat and prompt.
8. Remember to prepare 3-5 sets of your scholarship folder (check with your Counseling Office).
9. Be aware that you do not have to be an “A” or “B” student to be considered for scholarships. Many committees desire to award scholarships to students who show promise of success. A “C” is considered an average grade and average students **DO** go on to post-high school training.
10. Scholarships are for both college **AND** trade/vocational schools. So, apply if you are planning to attend any type of post-high school training.
11. Write a thank-you letter to the organization granting you a scholarship. If you drop out of school and do not complete the semester, you should return the scholarship money.
12. Check with your school bookkeeper and/or Counseling Office to find out how awarded scholarship funds will be disbursed. Most are mailed directly to the institution you will be attending; therefore, it is important to give the high school bookkeeper the name/address of your post-secondary institution. Very few scholarship funds will be given directly to the recipient.



SCHOLARSHIP FOLDER FORMAT

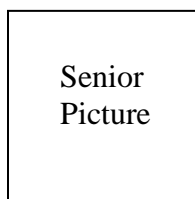
Be thorough and precise in the preparation of your scholarship folder. Many people representing various scholarship committees will examine it. All information should be typed and double-spaced with no obvious erasures or strikeouts. Your scholarship folder should be bound with a soft cover.

PAGE 1- Title Page

- Cover page with identifying statement, centered and spaced correctly in the middle of the page.
- Senior picture centered on page with your name typed approximately four lines below your picture (optional).

SCHOLARSHIP FOLDER

of



Student Name

(XYZ) High School

PAGES 2-3 Scholarship Application

Complete the Scholarship Application pages in a common font, no larger than 12 font size. Be sure to use the same style and format throughout your folder.

PAGES 4-5 Personal Essay

A personal statement essay typed, double-spaced, at least one to two pages long. What makes you different? Is there a person, place, or event that has shaped who you are? What has influenced you along the way? Do you have a particular career or vocational interest – if yes, what influenced you to go in that direction? Are there special circumstances which illustrate financial need? A good essay will provide the reader with interesting insights into the personality, interests, and/or character of the applicant. Do NOT simply make this an auto-biographical account of everything you've ever done.

PAGE 6 Transcript

Include a copy of your official transcript which can be obtained from your Counseling Office with prior notice (usually 1 week!)

PAGE 7 Financial Statement

Although including a financial statement is optional, several of the sponsors would prefer to include it as it is helpful to their selection committees.

PAGES 8-10 Letters of Recommendation

Obtain 3-5 letters of recommendation from school personnel (teachers, administrators, and counselors), employers, and/or volunteer supervisors. Do not include letters from family members or friends. Allow a **minimum of two weeks** for individuals to process a letter for you. A student profile sheet (last page of this packet) or student resume should be given to the individual(s) to assist in writing your recommendation

Appendix

Including additional items in an appendix is optional and comes with cautions. You may choose to include a few items unique to you. Examples are newspaper clippings or copies of special awards. Use your judgment and discretion wisely; do not exceed more than 2-3 pages. Caution: Including copies of every award you've ever received is NOT recommended and will most likely work against you!



Scholarship Application

1. Name: _____ Social Security # _____

2. Address: _____

3. High School Attended and Dates: _____

4. Names of Parents or Guardians: _____

5. Brothers and Sisters and Their Ages: _____

6. Dates of Alaskan Residence: From: _____ To: _____

7. Number of Brothers and Sisters Attending College Now: _____

8. Planned Major in College or Vocational/Trade School: _____

9. Activities and Honors:

A. School Activities: _____

B. Positions of Responsibility in High School Activities: _____

C. Out-of-School Activities & Interests: _____

D. Positions of Responsibility in Out-of-School Activities: _____

E. Awards & Honors: _____

10. Out-of-School Employment (Summer & After School): _____

Employer: _____

Position: _____

Type of Work: _____

Dates: _____

11. College/University Choices:

1. Name of College/University: _____

Total Cost: _____

Amount of Aid Needed: _____

2. Name of College/University: _____

Total Cost: _____

Amount of Aid Needed: _____

3. Name of College/University:

Total Cost:

Amount of Aid Needed:

12. What has been the best part of your high school experience?

13. What level of education do you expect to attain?

(Certification, Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate, Other)

14. Grade Point Average: _____ Date Computed: _____

Class Rank (approximate) _____

Counselor's Signature: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Financial Statement

Instructions: Estimate the amount of scholarship aid that you will need for the first year of post-high school training.

1. Use the Alaska Career Information System or consult a catalog and/or website of a post-high school institution to reach an estimate of the cost of attendance for **one year** of education or training.
2. Consult with your parents. Reach an estimate of the money that you can expect from them and from your own earnings (part-time, summer, gifts) for the **first year** of your post-high school education or training (item 2).
3. Subtract the sum in B from the sum in A to get the sum in C, or your scholarship request.

A. Estimate of expenses for the first year of college:

Tuition, room, board, fees	\$ _____
Books and supplies (average \$900)	\$ _____
Clothing, cleaning, laundry (average \$450)	\$ _____
Medical, dental (average \$250)	\$ _____
Entertainment, Recreation (average \$500)	\$ _____
Incidentals (average \$500)	\$ _____
Travel (varies with distance from home)	\$ _____
Total Cost of Attendance:	\$ _____

B. Estimate of sources of meeting college costs for first year:

From Parents	\$ _____
From own earnings	\$ _____
From scholarships	\$ _____
From student loans	\$ _____
Total Money Available:	\$ _____

C. **Scholarship Request (subtract B from A):** \$ _____

Personal Profile
for
Letters of Recommendation

Name:

Activities you have participated in:

School:

Community:

Awards and Honors:

School:

Community:

Educational Goal (s):

Work Experience:

Any additional information you might want to add: