



## **NAFEPA Scholarship Program 2026**

### **Information, Page 1 of 2**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the NAFEPA scholarship program is to promote student access to a variety of post-secondary educational opportunities and mitigate factors that might inhibit students from pursuing their career and life goals. There are four scholarships, each worth a total of \$5000, distributed over two consecutive years (\$2500 each year). The scholarships are in honor of four NAFEPA members who provided our Association with valuable leadership, having given time and talents to move our Association forward as a professional organization. Two scholarships are awarded to candidates pursuing a degree, license, or certification in the field of education. The remaining two scholarships are awarded to candidates in any field of study.

#### **Student Eligibility**

The NAFEPA Scholarship Program is open to candidates meeting all the following eligibility criteria:

- High school senior on track to graduate by the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year.
- Enrolled in a public school district or charter school (public school academy) with at least one current NAFEPA member\*; AND
- Pursuing a degree, license, certification, or other professional or vocational endorsement at a post-secondary institution beginning in 2026-27 and continuing in 2027-28.
- Year two recipients must be in good academic standing. Specific eligibility criteria for Year two will be shared with recipients when they are notified of their awards.

\*Contact the State NAFEPA Representative, found at [www.nafepa.org/Board-of-Directors](http://www.nafepa.org/Board-of-Directors), for the State's NAFEPA membership directory.

#### **State Nominations to NAFEPA**

Candidates are nominated by the NAFEPA state affiliate organization or representative. Each state selects one candidate to nominate for the national NAFEPA Scholarship Program. States with more than 100 NAFEPA members may nominate a total of two candidates.

| <b>Components</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Points</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. A personal essay (up to 2 pages, double spaced) that reflects proper conventions of writing and fully addresses the required discussion points listed in the Application Checklist. | 50 points     |
| 2. Unweighted* GPA, based on the applicant's Fall 2024 High School transcript.<br>*To be determined by the Scholarship Committee, if not provided in the transcript.                   | 20 points     |
| 3. School, community, service, leadership and/or work activities and experiences in which the applicant participated during grades 9-12, including leadership positions held.          | 15 points     |
| 4. Letters of recommendation including a letter from the student's high school principal or administrative designee, a faculty member/advisor, and a non-family member.                | 9 points      |
| 5. The application, taken as a whole, tells a compelling story that aligns to the purpose of the scholarship program.                                                                  | 6 points      |



### **Scholarship Payments**

All scholarship payments are made **directly to the institution of the recipient's choice**. The first payment will be made in the 2026-27 academic year, and the second in 2027-28. To be eligible for the second award, recipients must be in good academic standing. Each scholarship recipient must forward verification of enrollment and a tuition invoice from the institution to the NAFEPA Treasurer. For the second year, documentation of the recipient's academic standing must also be provided.



## **NAFEPA Scholarship Program 2026**

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### **Instructions for the Applicant**

1. Request information needed from school staff and others, as applicable:
  - a. Principal - Part 4: Certification of Applicant's HS Completion Status. **Include Return Date.**
  - b. Counselor - Fall 2025 Transcript, to include an unweighted GPA, if possible
  - c. Three letters of recommendation: principal/designee, faculty member, non-family member
2. Discuss the information on Page 3 of the Application, "Announcing Scholarship Recipients", with your parent, guardian, or caregiver. Complete Part 5, as appropriate.
3. Complete the application and attach all required information.
  - a. Check to be sure all signatures and initials have been obtained within the application and on the Checklist. (Leave the section labeled "For States Only" blank.)
  - b. Use the Checklist to make sure all components are completed and included in the packet.
4. Assemble the application packet as follows:
  - a. Print or copy pages one-sided only.
  - b. Sign the Checklist in the space provided for the Applicant's signature.
  - c. Use the Checklist as a cover sheet for the packet.
  - d. Compile the packet in the order listed on the Checklist.
  - e. Use a paper clip or folder to assemble the application packet. No staples, please.
5. Email the complete PDF application packet to the Minnesota Association of Administrators of state and Federal Education Programs (MAASFEP) [ghoffman@schs.k12.mn.us](mailto:ghoffman@schs.k12.mn.us). Mail the complete application packet to the State's NAFEPA Representative at the address below.  
**Email the COMPLETED packet to Gretchen Hoffman by Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

#### **MAASFEP Scholarship Contact Email & Mail Applications to:**

Gretchen Hoffman  
St. Charles Elementary School  
925 Church Avenue  
St. Charles, MN 55972  
[ghoffman@schs.k12.mn.us](mailto:ghoffman@schs.k12.mn.us)

State NAFEPA Rep's contact information:

Jeff Eklund  
531 Elmhurst Avenue South  
Braham, MN 55006  
[jeklund@braham.k12.mn.us](mailto:jeklund@braham.k12.mn.us)

**I verify that no section response was completely written by an AI writing program software.**

#### **Instructions for the State NAFEPA Representative:**

1. Provide each State nominee with instructions on how to submit a photo, per the response in Part 5.



2. Submit via email each State nominee's digital application packet and photo (if provided) to the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee by 11:59 p.m. on **Feb. 1, 2026**, following the instructions in the Memo to Board Members.

### Questions?

Contact the State's NAFEPA Rep Jeff Eklund – [jeklund@braham.k12.mn.us](mailto:jeklund@braham.k12.mn.us) or the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Norine Bowers (928-287-0434; [AZBower@yahoo.com](mailto:AZBower@yahoo.com))

## **NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026** **Application Checklist and Cover Sheet**

Applicants must submit the application to their State NAFEPA Representative listed in Part 1 of the Application. (Directory of State Reps: [www.nafepa.org/Board-of-Directors](http://www.nafepa.org/Board-of-Directors)).

A **completed Scholarship Application Packet** includes ALL the following documents and ALL required signatures and initials.

☐ **Completed Scholarship Application Form**, including this Checklist and all five parts;

- |                          |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Application Checklist</b> , with applicant's signature and date                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Part 1:</b> State NAFEPA Representative Information                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Part 2:</b> Applicant's Information                                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Part 3:</b> List of School, Community, Service, Leadership, and Work Activities/Experiences     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Part 4:</b> Certification of Applicant's High School Completion Status by high school principal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Part 5:</b> Photo Option and Permission                                                         |

☐ **Fall 2025 High School transcript - include an unweighted GPA, if possible**

☐ **Three letters of recommendation:**

1. One from the applicant's HS principal or administrative designee (on school letterhead)
2. One from a faculty member or advisor (on school/district letterhead)
3. One from a non-family member

☐ **Personal Essay up to 2 pages, double spaced.** Address each of the following prompts.

1. Explain your reasons for applying for the scholarship;
2. Describe a time when you faced adversity and the impact of the experience on you;
3. Describe a time when you demonstrated leadership skills or qualities; identify at least one of the skills/qualities and describe the impact of the experience on you or others;
4. Describe a time when you demonstrated personal responsibility and the impact of the experience on you or others; AND
5. Discuss your future goals and why they are important.

☐ **Use the Application Checklist with the Applicant's Signature as a Cover Sheet.**



## National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators

**Applicant - Read and verify each statement by putting your initials in the boxes below.**

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I understand that to be eligible for the NAFEPA Scholarship Program, I must be enrolled in a public school district or charter school with at least one current NAFEPA member.

I verify that none of the components of this application were generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **FOR STATE'S USE ONLY:**

**State NAFEPA Representative's Signature:** By signing below, I verify that our state nominates this applicant for the 2026 NAFEPA scholarship program and confirm that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

**STATE NAFEPA Rep's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE NAFEPA Rep's Full Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Photo of Applicant Included** \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_ No

## **NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026**

### **Application Page 1 of 3**

#### **Part 1: State Information** (State Rep completes before distributing the application in the State.)

|                              |                                                             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| State NAFEPA Representative: | Jeff Eklund & MAASFEP Scholarship Contact, Gretchen Hoffman |
| Nominating State:            | Minnesota                                                   |

#### **Part 2: Applicant's Information** (To be completed by the applicant.)

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 3: School, Community, Service, Leadership, and Work Activities/Experiences**

Please list activities in which you have actively participated during high school (grades 9-12), either at school or outside of school. Include any leadership positions or roles you might have held with school, community groups or organizations, or at work. For each activity, put the number of years you participated in parentheses. [Ex. *Debate Team (2 yrs)*]. (Include as an attachment, if preferred.)

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National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators

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**NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026**

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**Part 4: Certification of Applicant's High School Completion Status**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the High School Principal:**

☐ By checking this box, I certify that this student is a high school senior and is currently on track to meet the established criteria for obtaining a high school diploma by the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year.

**Principal's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of High School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form to the applicant by:** \_\_\_\_\_

(The Applicant must include a Return Date.)



## **NAFEPA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026**

### **Application, Page 3 of 3**

#### **Announcing Scholarship Recipients**

The NAFEPA Scholarship Committee announces the four NAFEPA Scholarship recipients during the spring conference in March of each year. Award letters are sent to the recipients following the conference, typically in early April. Recipients are not notified prior to the conference.

Photos of the four NAFEPA Scholarship recipients are included in a slideshow presentation for conference participants. The presentation includes other relevant information about each candidate including the candidate's name, high school/district, field of study, and quotes or key points taken from the candidate's application or the letters of recommendation.

**Submitting a photo is optional. Parent, guardian, or caregiver permission is required.** (See Part 5 below.)

Some states also announce their scholarship recipients at their state conferences. These states might request permission to use the applicant's photo in a similar way.

**State NAFEPA Representatives** are responsible for obtaining photos from the candidate(s) selected as State nominees for the NAFEPA Scholarship Program. The Representative submits each nominee's photo, along with the application packet, to the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee by 11:59 p.m. on February 1, 2026.

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### **Part 5: Photo Option and Permission**

#### **To be Completed by the Applicant**

**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial** one of the options below to indicate your intent.

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline the option to submit a photo. **STOP HERE.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will submit a photo, if selected, as a State NAFEPA Scholarship Nominee. **CONTINUE\***

#### **\*To be completed by a Parent, Guardian, or Caregiver**

Please **read and initial** each of the following statements to verify your understanding and agreement with each one.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give my child, named above, permission to submit a photo to the State NAFEPA Representative.

\_\_\_\_\_ I assisted/will assist my child in selecting a photo that is appropriate for the purpose stated above.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for the NAFEPA Scholarship Committee to use the photo of my child for the sole purpose of announcing the NAFEPA Scholarship Recipients, as described above.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for the State to use my child's photo for the sole purpose of announcing the State Recipients, if the State makes such an announcement.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name of Parent/Guardian/Caregiver:** \_\_\_\_\_