

HOUSTON AREA SCHOLARSHIP PACKET

Instructions

Enclosed is information on a variety of scholarships offered exclusively for Houston High School Seniors. You may apply for as many as all of them, or as few as one. Regardless, you have to fill out only one application, write only one essay, and provide only one copy of your transcript, and up to three reference letters (see requirements for each scholarship).

Here are the steps you need to follow in order to adequately apply for these scholarships:

1. Read over the entire packet, finding the scholarships that suit you.
2. *Check on the first page those scholarships for which you are applying.* Fill out the rest of this first sheet.
3. Compose your essay as indicated on the bottom of the first page. This will be the second page of your application.
4. Fill out the Involvement Record or supply your own list of achievements.
5. Get needed recommendation letters. If you need copies of ones submitted for your Career Passport Portfolio, please get them from Mrs. Merickel early and do not wait until you turn in your packet.
6. Fill out the pages for each specific scholarship, as needed.
7. Separate those sheets which you need to fill out from the ones you do not. Discard those you do not need.
8. Obtain an official copy of your seven semester transcript from the counselor's office.
9. Reread everything you have written. The people on each scholarship committee take what you write very seriously, therefore you need to as well. Have a parent, teacher, or friend proofread it for you. Make changes as needed.
10. Turn in the finalized packet to the Counselor's Office by **Friday February 27, 2026** at 3:00 PM. Absolutely no late applications will be accepted. Applications will be accepted electronically, but only if all materials are submitted in one PDF-formatted document. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Do not send various items separately.

So it will be:

Page 1: First page of packet

Page 2: Personal Essay

Page 3: Involvement Record

Page 4: Transcript

Additional Pages: Reference Letters

After References: all pages you have filled out, in alphabetical order according to scholarship

If at any time you have questions or need assistance, please first consult these directions, then see Mrs. Merickel.

HOUSTON AREA SCHOLARSHIP PACKET

Please checkmark all scholarships for which you wish to be considered.

_____ Hardin-Houston Band Booster
_____ Hardin-Houston Board of Education
_____ Hardin-Houston Education Association

_____ Patrick Craft Memorial
_____ Minster Bank Business
_____ Pepsi Partnership

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Planned College/University _____

College major or course of study: _____

Career Interests _____

Other information you would like the scholarship committees to consider _____

Please list any and all scholarships and financial aid you have been awarded up to this point

Anticipated Expenses (one year) Tuition \$ _____ Room & Board \$ _____ Fees \$ _____

Books & Personal Expenses \$ _____ Transportation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Please type your personal essay and address the following prompt in no more than one page:

“Why I should be the recipient of this scholarship.”

HARDIN-HOUSTON BAND BOOSTER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The person selected to receive the Hardin-Houston Band Booster Association Scholarship should:

1. Be graduating from Houston High School with the current class.
2. Be a senior band, jazz band or choir member.
3. Be accepted to a two-year or four-year college or university.
4. Show a record of service to the school through band or other music activities.
5. Demonstrate moral worthiness, honesty, above average character, and leadership.
6. Demonstrate a desire for further education.
7. Submit personal written recommendations from one faculty member and two non-school, non-family members.
8. Appear before the Scholarship Committee to be interviewed (if requested) before final selection is made.
9. Submit a High School Transcript.

These are the ideals expressed by the Scholarship Committee. As it is likely very few persons will excel in every criterion listed, the scholarship committee encourages all interested seniors to apply.

This scholarship is paid to the school, college, or university at the start of the student's second year. Students should present a bill to the Houston Band Boosters treasurer to request the \$500 scholarship. The \$500 scholarship will be sent directly to the student's school, college, or university.

Deadline: All application materials must be submitted by February 27, 2026.

PATRICK CRAFT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose:

This scholarship shall financially assist a deserving graduate from Houston High School to attend an accredited program after graduation. Preference will be given to a graduate planning to attend a technical school or program, but those planning to attend a two or four-year college or university are also encouraged to apply.

Award:

The amount and number of scholarships varies each award year. Payment will be made directly to the educational institution in two equal semester payments during the first year.

Eligibility:

Applicant must have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average based upon grades from their junior year and first semester of their senior year.

Applicant must have applied and been accepted at the accredited institution of their choice.

Applicant must complete all requested application materials.

Application Process:

Complete application form.

Attach a high school transcript listing grade point average, class rank, and ACT scores. Request a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, community leader, or current employer.

Deadline:

All application materials must be submitted by February 27, 2026 to the high school counselor.

Selection Process:

The selection committee shall be composed of the high school principal, school counselor, and a member of the Craft family, or their designee. The committee members will review application materials and select the applicants. Announcement of the recipient will be made at the Houston High School Commencement Ceremony. The recipient will be notified in writing how to receive the funds awarded.

I have read the conditions of the scholarship and I wish to apply. I give permission to the selection committee to review application materials, and to the Craft family to release appropriate publicity.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

HARDIN-HOUSTON BAND BOOSTER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The person selected to receive the Hardin-Houston Band Booster Association Scholarship should:

10. Be graduating from Houston High School with the current class.
11. Be a senior band, jazz band or choir member.
12. Be accepted to a two-year or four-year college or university.
13. Show a record of service to the school through band or other music activities.
14. Demonstrate moral worthiness, honesty, above average character, and leadership.
15. Demonstrate a desire for further education.
16. Submit personal written recommendations from one faculty member and two non-school, non-family members.
17. Appear before the Scholarship Committee to be interviewed (if requested) before final selection is made.
18. Submit a High School Transcript.

These are the ideals expressed by the Scholarship Committee. As it is likely very few persons will excel in every criterion listed, the scholarship committee encourages all interested seniors to apply.

This scholarship is paid to the school, college, or university at the start of the student's second year. Students should present a bill to the Houston Band Boosters treasurer to request the \$500 scholarship. The \$500 scholarship will be sent directly to the student's school, college, or university.

Deadline: All application materials must be submitted by February 27, 2026.

HARDIN-HOUSTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose: The Hardin-Houston Board of Education members shall assist deserving graduates from Houston High School to attend an accredited program at a two or four-year college or university or a technical school.

Award: The amount and number of scholarships will be determined yearly based upon available funds. Scholarships will be awarded for beginning, full-time freshmen students. Payment will be made to the education institution in two equal payments for semester calendar schools or three equal payments for quarter calendar schools. Students must apply the scholarship their freshman year and present a tuition bill from their intended institution to the school treasurer before any payment will be made.

Eligibility: Applicant must have a minimum of a 2.50 cumulative grade point average.
Applicant must have applied and been accepted at the institution of their choice.
Applicant must complete all requested application materials.
Sons or daughters of Hardin-Houston Board of Education members are not eligible

Application Process: Complete application form. Attach a seven-semester high school grade transcript. Request and attach a letter of recommendation from a teacher and a community leader (4-H advisor, minister, employer, etc.).

Deadline: Application materials must be submitted by February 27, 2026 to the school counselor.

Selection Process: The selection committee shall be composed of three members of the Hardin-Houston Board of Education, one school administrator (high school principal or superintendent), and one faculty member (counselor or teacher). The committee members will review application materials and select award recipients. The applicants will be evaluated on: completeness, accuracy, and neatness of application materials, demonstrated financial need, and service to the school through participation in scholarship, leadership, and service activities (athletics, music, class offices, clubs, etc.)

Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing of the decision of the selection committee.

I have read the conditions of the scholarship and I wish to apply. I give permission to the selection committee to review application materials, and to the Hardin-Houston Board of Education members to release appropriate publicity.

Signature of Applicant

Date

HARDIN-HOUSTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

These are the ideals expressed by the teachers of the Hardin-Houston Local Schools for the recipient of their annual scholarship. It is a rare individual who excels in every criterion listed, so we encourage all interested persons to apply.

The person who receives the HHEA Scholarship should:

- *Be a senior, graduating from Houston High School with the current class.
- *Be accepted to a two or four-year technical school, college, or university.
- *Demonstrate a habit of dedicated attendance to school and punctuality in work.
- *Demonstrate moral worthiness, honesty, above average character, and leadership.
- *Show a record of service to the school through activities, organizations, or athletics.
- *Demonstrate a strong desire for further education and a high probability of completing the full course of work toward the chosen degree.
- *Have a real financial need for the money.
- *Submit with the application form a personal essay, a written recommendation from one faculty member, and recommendations from two other persons not associated with the schools.
- *Appear before the HHEA Scholarship Committee to be interviewed before final selection is made.

NOTE:

This scholarship is paid to the school, college, or university at the start of the student's second year.

Application deadline is February 27, 2026.

The amount of the scholarship will be \$1000. There will be two recipients.

Applicants will be ranked 1-2-3-4-5-6 ... in such categories as grade point average, ACT or SAT scores, school attendance, personal essay, recommendations, leadership and activities, financial need, and the interview, which may count as much as 50% in the decision. *Members of the HHEA Scholarship Committee are not eligible to write recommendations for this scholarship.* This year's committee members are:

Deanna Chappie, Nate Fridley, Emily Ginn, Teresa Knouff, Stephanie Merickel, Tina Mertz,
Deb Smith, and Jill York

MINSTER BANK BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose:

This scholarship shall financially assist a deserving graduate from Houston High School to attend a two or four-year college with a major in Business.

Award:

A total of \$1000 will be awarded for a beginning full-time freshman student. Payment will be made directly to the student.

Eligibility:

Applicant must have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average based on the seven-semester transcript.

Applicant must have applied and been accepted to a two or four-year college.

Applicant must plan to pursue a major in Business.

Applicant must complete all requested application materials.

Application Process:

Complete application form.

Attach a high school transcript listing grade point average, class rank, and ACT scores.

Deadline:

All application materials must be submitted by February 27, 2026 to the high school counselor.

Selection Process:

A committee of Houston High School staff members will review and select the recipient.

I have read the conditions of the scholarship and I wish to apply. I give permission to the selection committee to review application materials, and to Houston High School and Minster Bank to release appropriate publicity.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

PEPSI PARTNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The contractual agreement that the Hardin-Houston Local School District shares with Pepsi allows for one scholarship to be awarded each Spring for the duration of the contract. The amount of the scholarship is \$250.00 and is non-renewable.

The grade point average requirement for this scholarship is very specific. The student must have between a 2.50 and a 2.99 cumulative GPA. The scholarship may be offered to an applicant who exceeds the 2.99 GPA, if and only if there is no applicant that meets the GPA requirement.

The student who wishes to apply may do so simply by checking the front page next to the name of this scholarship and filling out the necessary sheets, submitting a transcript and two reference letters. The determination of which applicant receives the scholarship will be up to the discretion of the Houston High School Principal and Hardin-Houston Local School District Superintendent.

Scholarship application is due on February 27, 2026 to the Guidance Office.