



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: February 12, 2026

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions below for common questions, definitions, and clarifications. If there are additional inquiries that were not addressed here, please contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education at NextTeacher@che.in.gov.

The FAQ includes:

- General Information
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Selecting Recipients
- Scholarship Utilization and Renewal
- Promissory Note
- Service Requirements
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General Information

What is the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship provides high-achieving high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a renewable scholarship during up to four academic years of their undergraduate education. In exchange, students must teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or repay the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship, plus interest.

How much is the scholarship?

The scholarship provides **up to** \$10,000 per academic year. Half of the scholarship amount is awarded during the fall semester (**up to** \$5,000), and the remaining half is awarded during the spring semester (**up to** \$5,000). The scholarship may be renewed for up to three additional years, for a maximum of \$40,000, while pursuing a baccalaureate degree, provided the recipient meets all renewal requirements.

Will accepting this scholarship impact a recipient's ability to receive other financial aid?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship and other awards offered by the Indiana Commission—such as the 21st Century Scholarship and Frank O'Bannon Grant—may be used simultaneously.



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If a recipient of the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship is receiving gift aid from other organizations, the Indiana Commission strongly encourages recipients to discuss their financial aid package with their institution's financial aid office. If you are a financial aid administrator and have questions about administering the scholarship on your campus, please contact the Indiana Commission.

Is this a scholarship or a loan?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship is a scholarship with a five-year service requirement. If the service requirement is not met, the scholarship will be converted to a loan, plus interest. The interest rate is fixed at 7%.

For what can the scholarship be used?

Recipients may use the scholarship for a range of educational costs, including but not limited to tuition, fees, and other expenses related to their academic program.

Is this scholarship eligible to be used at any institution?

The scholarship may be used at eligible institutions in Indiana. Please refer to the list of eligible institutions on our Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship webpage.

Eligibility Requirements

What are the eligibility requirements for this scholarship?

- Be an [Indiana resident](#) and U.S. citizen or [eligible non-citizen](#);
- Be a current high school senior or a college student able to utilize the scholarship for at least two full academic years in college;
- Meet **one** of the three academic qualifiers:
 - Rank in the top 20% of high school graduating class; **or**
 - Have a top 20% ACT or SAT score; **or**
 - Have a high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate from an accredited Indiana high school or non-accredited non-public Indiana high school;
- Be enrolled, or intend to enroll, in an eligible educator preparation program at an eligible Indiana institution with full-time enrollment status;
- Pursue or intend to pursue a course of study that leads to teaching licensure;
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) each year;
- Maintain a 3.0/4.0 GPA, complete 30 credit hours per year or their equivalent, and meet all other requirements established by their program;
- Must not be in overpayment or default on a federal student loan or grant;



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- Fulfill the service requirement or have corresponding, prorated amount of scholarship converted to a loan that must be repaid.

May an applicant apply if their high school does not use a class ranking system or provide GPAs?

If an applicant does not have a class rank or GPA, standardized testing scores (SAT/ACT) may be used as an academic qualifier.

Can graduate students apply?

This scholarship is available exclusively to students pursuing undergraduate studies in an eligible program.

Can licensed teachers apply?

Licensed teachers are ineligible to apply, as this scholarship is designed to support students that are seeking their baccalaureate.

Application Procedures

Where is the application located?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship application is accessed through [ScholarTrack](#), Indiana's one-stop-shop for state financial aid.

- The applicant must register for a **full-user account** to apply.

How to locate the application in ScholarTrack:

- Log into ScholarTrack,
- Select "State Aid Resources" from the menu,
- Select "Apply for State Aid",
- Select "Financial Aid for Future Educators",
- Select "Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship", and
- Select "Apply".

If an applicant was waitlisted or denied for the scholarship in the past, can they re-apply?

Yes, waitlisted or denied applicants are welcome to re-apply for the scholarship, provided all eligibility requirements are met.

If an applicant has received the scholarship already, can they apply again?



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Recipients of this award should not submit a new application. Instead, they should complete the brief scholarship renewal form in ScholarTrack to indicate their interest in renewing the award for the following academic year.

When will the renewal form become available in ScholarTrack?

The renewal form is made available in ScholarTrack every year on April 1 and must be completed before December 31.

How to locate the scholarship renewal form in ScholarTrack:

- Log into ScholarTrack,
- Select “State Aid Resources” from the menu,
- Select “Apply for State Aid”,
- Select “Financial Aid for Future Educators”,
- Select “Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship”, and
- Select “Continue”.

What materials or details will applicants need to provide when completing the application?

- High school class rank, ACT or SAT examination score(s), and cumulative GPA;
- Extracurricular involvement information;
- Employment information during high school (if applicable); and
- Prepared writing prompt – The response is limited to 250 words.

If an applicant has already completed their program, are they eligible to receive this scholarship to help repay their loans?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship may only be applied toward current educational expenses and cannot be used to repay existing student loans or past program costs.

Which GPA should college students report on their application—their college cumulative GPA or their high school GPA?

College students are required to use their high school GPA when completing their application.

Selecting Recipients

How are applicants selected for this scholarship?

An internal application reviewing process will begin after the application’s deadline.



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When an applicant has been selected for this scholarship, what are their next steps?

Applicants selected for this scholarship must complete the requirements outlined in the email to proceed. Failure to complete these steps in a timely manner will result in forfeiture of their award. If an applicant wishes to remain under consideration after forfeiture, they should email NextTeacher@che.in.gov to be added to the waitlist.

What happens if an applicant has been selected for the scholarship, but does not meet any of the three academic qualifiers?

The award offer must be rescinded. All scholarship offers are contingent upon meeting the established eligibility requirements.

Will applicants be notified if they are not selected?

The Indiana Commission will notify each applicant of their application status by email.

What are the application statuses that an applicant could receive?

An applicant may be selected, waitlisted, or denied.

Scholarship Utilization and Renewal

Can I take a gap year and defer my scholarship?

Recipients must enroll in college directly out of high school and complete 30 credits per year to maintain scholarship eligibility. However, circumstances that warrant a recipient defer their scholarship are “once in a lifetime” opportunities (i.e., serving as national FFA officer) or medical emergencies. These rare circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis and will not count against the recipient’s scholarship eligibility.

If a recipient has too much financial aid this year, how would they receive the scholarship in the future?

Recipients must use their scholarship in the fall semester of the year they were selected, unless their total gift aid exceeds the cost of attendance (COA) at their institution. In this case, the recipient can maintain their eligibility for the next academic year by meeting all renewal requirements. Their eligibility will be reduced by one year for each year the scholarship is (or is not) utilized.

- *Funds above COA are not available for future academic years.*

If a recipient received the scholarship last year. How would they renew their scholarship for the following year?



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Recipients must submit a brief renewal form in ScholarTrack (in addition to meeting all renewal requirements) prior to the start of the new academic year. The renewal form is made available in ScholarTrack every year on April 1 and must be completed before December 31.

If a recipient does not need to renew their scholarship because they are graduating, what steps should they take?

Recipients approaching graduation must complete the renewal form to indicate that they are not renewing their award due to graduating.

If a recipient does not need to renew their scholarship because they are changing majors, what steps should they take?

Recipients who've changed majors must complete the renewal form to indicate that they are opting out of the scholarship program due to a change in their major.

If a recipient has used their scholarship, but has since changed majors, would they be responsible for repaying \$40,000?

Recipients will be responsible for repaying the appropriate prorated amount of the award (i.e., the amount of the scholarship they've used).

Who will report credit completion and GPA to the Indiana Commission for scholarship renewal?

Credit completion information and GPA are reported to the Commission by the recipient's institution.

Are recipients required to submit their transcripts to the Indiana Commission annually?

The Indiana Commission will verify recipients' academic information through ScholarTrack.

If a recipient has not earned enough credit hours to renew their scholarship, will they be eligible to use their scholarship the following academic year?

The scholarship requires recipients to earn 30-credit hours each year (15-credit hours per semester). If a recipient falls short on credit hours, ScholarTrack will automatically transfer credit banked hours to ensure the credit completion requirement is met—which ensures renewal eligibility. If the recipient does not have any credit banked hours, the recipient may take summer classes to meet the renewal requirement. If the renewal requirement is not



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met, the recipient may be ineligible to renew their scholarship for the following academic year.

If an extenuating circumstance occurs that prevents a recipient from meeting any scholarship requirement, recipients may file an appeal. The appeal must be supported with documentation from a third party. Each appeal is reviewed and processed on a case-by-case basis.

Will a recipient who drops below the 3.0 GPA requirement be eligible to use the scholarship in the next academic year?

The recipient will not be eligible to renew their scholarship for the following academic year – unless an appeal regarding their extenuating circumstance has been filed and approved by the Indiana Commission.

A recipient had a 2.78 GPA at the beginning of the fall semester and was deemed ineligible to renew their scholarship. The recipient received a 3.15 GPA at the end of the fall semester. Is the recipient able to renew their scholarship for the spring term?

The scholarship is not eligible for mid-year renewal; reinstatement can occur only at the start of the next academic year.

When a recipient graduates early, how does this impact their scholarship?

Early graduation is a huge accomplishment. When a recipient graduates early, their institution may apply the full award (\$10,000/annually) towards costs incurred during the fall semester.

Can recipients study abroad while receiving this scholarship?

Out-of-state or overseas study is eligible for state financial aid only when the recipient remains enrolled for credit at their state aid-eligible institution. The scholarship may be applied to their Cost of Attendance (COA) if the charges are billed by their institution and do not exceed the costs charged to comparable on-campus students.

During this period, recipients are still required to earn 30-credit hours per academic year. If the study-abroad experience does not award credit, the recipient must earn enough credits in their remaining terms to reach the 30-credit requirement for the academic year.

How does a recipient access or request their scholarship funds?



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After the Indiana Commission creates the scholarship in ScholarTrack, the recipient's institution will access the funds through the system. No additional steps are required from the recipient.

What happens if a recipient does not use their full scholarship award?

Any unused portion of the scholarship will expire. Recipients are not responsible for the remaining funds.

Promissory Note

Why is a promissory note required for this scholarship?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship has a **five-year** teaching obligation. The promissory note is a written agreement that upholds the recipient's commitment to teach for five years or **repay** the corresponding, prorated amount of their scholarship, plus interest.

How does a recipient complete the promissory note?

The Indiana Commission's vendor, Heartland ECSI (webmaster@ecsi.net), will administer the promissory note via email. Recipients will receive a link and a PIN number to complete the promissory note.

Any questions about the promissory note may be directed to Heartland ECSI's Customer Service at 1-888-549-3274.

What information is contained within the promissory note?

The promissory note collects the following information:

- Contact Information to be provided by the recipient as the borrower;
- Individual PIN Number, provided by ECSI;
- Entrance counseling, loan terms, and requirements;
- Rights and responsibilities as the borrower;
- Student information, next of kin, two references, provided by the recipient as the borrower, to be used should a recipient enter repayment and/or default on their loan;
- Private education loan approval disclosure, self-certification information; and
- Signed promissory note and confirmation of receipt.

Why does the promissory note list the Indiana Commission for Higher Education as the recipient's school?

The promissory note is a legally binding agreement between the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (the scholarship provider) and the scholarship recipient.



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Why does the promissory note reflect a \$40,000 award when the actual amount awarded may vary?

The promissory note reflects the maximum scholarship amount available under the program, which is \$40,000. However, the actual amount a recipient can receive depends on several factors – such as program costs, other gift aid, and/or their classification in college. The amount on the promissory note does not guarantee that every recipient will receive the full \$40,000—it simply establishes the upper limit of what can be awarded.

Service Requirements

How quickly are scholarship recipients expected to secure a teaching position?

Following the recipient's graduation, the recipient will be placed in a grace period for six months. If the recipient has not yet secured an eligible teaching position within six months, the recipient should email us at NextTeacher@che.in.gov.

How does a scholarship recipient report that they are fulfilling the service requirement?

The recipient must submit a **Deferment/Cancellation Form** and **Employment Verification Letter** to NextTeacher@che.in.gov.

The Employment Verification Letter (as mentioned in *Section 4* of the Deferment/Cancellation Form) is a short letter written by an administrator at the school or school corporation which includes:

- The recipient's start date with the school/school corporation;
- The name of the school at which the recipient teaches;
- The grade/subject in which the recipient teaches; and
- A few of their duties as a teacher.

If the recipient does not teach for five years, how much of the scholarship will the recipient pay back?

When the five-year service requirement goes unfulfilled, the recipient will be required to repay the remaining, prorated amount of the scholarship, plus interest.

The remaining, prorated amount of the scholarship will be contingent upon several factors – such as the total amount that their scholarship provided, and how much has been canceled (if applicable).

Does the recipient have to teach in Indiana?



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Recipients must teach at a public, charter, or eligible nonpublic school in Indiana to fulfill the service requirement. It is important to note that recipients are not required to teach at the same school for all five years. Please refer to the eligible Indiana schools link on the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship webpage for more information.

Is there a particular subject and/or grade level that a recipient must teach to fulfill the service requirement?

Per statute, recipients are permitted to teach any subject for grades Kindergarten through 12th. Pre-K and younger grade levels are not eligible to fulfill the service requirement.

What happens if a recipient does not finish their undergraduate program?

Recipients who do not complete their undergraduate program and are unable to meet the service obligation must repay the scholarship, plus interest.