

WILLIAM H. SEARCY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION

William H. Searcy was superintendent of the Ashtabula County Schools for 19 years, beginning in August 1966 and ending with his death in December 1985. Mr. Searcy's educational career spanned 38 years. He dedicated his life to the education of youth in Ashtabula County, as well as in the state.

1. Applicants for the William H. Searcy Memorial Scholarship must submit a typed essay, of no more than two pages, indicating his/her rationale for consideration by the scholarship committee.
2. **Applicants must supply an official transcript of credit with the completed application and 2 letters of reference in a separate sealed envelope.** Transcripts are available through the high school guidance counselor. Forms for the letters of reference are included in this packet.
3. To be considered a qualified applicant for the William H. Searcy Memorial Scholarship, a student must meet the following criteria:
 - a. **Be enrolled in an approved program for the preparation of teachers;**
 - b. Must have an unweighted 3.0 GPA, or greater based on a 4.0 scale;
 - c. Be of sound character;
 - d. Demonstrate above-average achievement on college entrance exams;
 - e. Demonstrate involvement in extracurricular activities and community service;
 - f. Graduating from one of the public schools in Ashtabula County.
4. The William H. Searcy Memorial Scholarship includes payment of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) each year, for four years, with grades reviewed each year, payable to the recipient. Payment will be made upon verification of successful completion of the first semester of each year. ***There will be two recipients selected each year.***
5. The recipients of the William H. Searcy Scholarship will be required to submit college transcripts and a course schedule each year.
6. **All applications must be delivered and/or postmarked to the William H. Searcy Memorial Foundation by Friday, March 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. The applicant is responsible for all application materials and for meeting the specified requirements.**
7. A **complete** application consists of the following:
 - a. Completed application
 - b. High school transcript
 - c. Two letters of reference
 - d. Essay

APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:

William H. Searcy Memorial Foundation
c/o Lori Riley
2630 West 13th Street, Suite A
Ashtabula, OH 44004

**APPLICATION FOR:
THE WILLIAM H. SEARCY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Applicant's Name (Print) _____

School District _____

COMPLETE Address (including city and zip)

High School _____

Class Rank _____

Total number in graduating class _____

Student's Home Phone _____

Grade Point Average _____
(Unweighted based on a 4.0 scale)

Student's Cell Phone _____

Name of Parent/Guardian

Student's email address _____

1) Please describe your extracurricular, co-curricular, and/or community involvement.

2) Please list awards, grants, and/or scholarships received or pending.

College/University in which you plan to enroll: _____

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Counselor/Principal

WILLIAM H. SEARCY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ESSAY PROMPT

At your graduation party, a family friend corners you by the punch bowl and questions your decision to “waste your potential” by pursuing a career in education. He contends that the only good thing about the profession is that teachers have to work 180 days a year and have the whole summer off. He believes that this is offset by the lack of discipline in the schools, the absence of motivation in today’s students, a lack of parental support of their children and school programs and numerous other “problems”, such as chemical abuse among students and a lack of adequate funding for schools.

What will you say to him? What will you give as your reasons for wanting to become a teacher? Convince him that it is not a mistake!

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR ESSAY TO TWO (2) PAGES.

LETTER OF REFERENCE

The following student is applying for a scholarship from the William H. Searcy Memorial Foundation. As a potential professional educator, this student is seeking financial aid to help with college expenses while pursuing a career in teaching.

In what capacity do you know the candidate? Also, please comment on this candidate's academic and/or personal qualities, which you feel qualify him/her for consideration for this scholarship.

Please place the letter of reference and this form in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant by March 10, 2026

CANDIDATE: _____

DATE OF REFERENCE: _____

Person providing reference: _____

Position of person providing reference: _____

LETTER OF REFERENCE

The following student is applying for a scholarship from the William H. Searcy Memorial Foundation. As a potential professional educator, this student is seeking financial aid to help with college expenses while pursuing a career in teaching.

In what capacity do you know the candidate? Also, please comment on this candidate's academic and/or personal qualities, which you feel qualify him/her for consideration for this scholarship.

Please place the letter of reference and this form in a sealed envelope and return to the applicant by March 10, 2026

CANDIDATE: _____

DATE OF REFERENCE: _____

Person providing reference: _____

Position of person providing reference: _____