



W. Harold Ford Scholarship Foundation
P O Box 682
Springfield, VA 22150-0682
(703) 923-9877

A program of FCRE – Fairfax County Retired Educators

January 2026

Dear Student,

Thank you for applying for one of the scholarships available through Fairfax County Retired Educators. Members are retired employees of Fairfax County Public Schools who are helping to support the teachers of the future.

In order to be considered, each applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Submit a transcript showing 1st -7th semester GPA of at least 2.7.
2. Plan to attend, on a full-time basis, a college or university which offers a teacher education program leading to certification. Two-year colleges do not offer teacher education programs.
3. Plan to teach after college graduation.
4. Work with the Career Center Specialist to submit the completed application by the date determined by your high school. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Submit at least one (1) recommendation from someone in the field of education or activities related to children who has personal knowledge of your desire to be an educator. That person may not be a relative. Examples will be helpful to the scholarship committee. A recommendation for college is **not** acceptable unless it focuses on your desire to become an educator.
6. Submit a resume of school and community activities with emphasis on activities with children (peers) and active leadership (not limited to holding office.)
7. Submit three short essays, **one to two paragraphs** in length, in response to the following three questions related to teaching and your desire to enter the teaching profession. There is an **optional fourth essay**, which can be used to detail special circumstances such as financial need.
8. Sign photo and news release.

Applications are available in your school's career center and also on line at www.fcree.org/scholarship.html.

Your application and supporting materials must be submitted to your Career Center Specialist by the date determined by your high school. The March 26, 2026 date is our deadline. Your school's deadline will probably be sooner.

**Each high school may submit two nominee(s) to:
Phyllis Rittman, Scholarship Director
P0 Box 682
Springfield, VA 22150-06
postmarked no later than MARCH 26, 2026**

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR FCRE W. HAROLD FORD FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP:

(Please print in black ink or fill out online and mail in with application.)

Student

Name: _____
*Last**first**middle*

Address: _____
*street**city**zip*

Telephone _____
*home**cell*

Student
Email _____

High School: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

Please print their names, as they will be invited to the scholarship luncheon in June if you are a winner

Career Center	CC Specialist
Specialist Name: _____	email _____
<i>Please Print</i>	

What college or university do you plan to attend next year? If undecided, please let us know where you have applied/where you've been accepted/where attending, if known.

Accepted _____

Applied _____

- I have reviewed the requirements for the W. Harold Ford Foundation Scholarship and I agree to follow the criteria for the Scholarship.
- Should I win one of the W. Harold Ford Foundation Scholarships, I give my permission to allow FCRE to publish pictures and information about me which will publicize the Ford Foundation Scholarship in the FCRE newsletter, ***The Advocate***, and in any other news media chosen by FCRE.

Student's Signature: _____

Please print name _____ **Date** _____

W. HAROLD FORD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

(These scholarships are dedicated for future educators. Application forms are available in your school's career center or online at

www.fcrc.org/scholarship.html)

Respond to the three required essay topics. They definitely count towards your score so don't treat them casually. The fourth one is optional.

1. Essays will be judged on: development of ideas; organization of thoughts; and your interest in and commitment to becoming a teacher.
2. Each essay should be 1 to 2 paragraphs in length.

Required Topics:

- Essay 1: Why do you want to be a teacher?
- Essay 2: Choose one of the activities in which you have been involved and indicate how it demonstrates the qualities you will bring to teaching.
- Essay 3: Choose one (or more) of your best teachers and identify the qualities that has made him/her a standout.

Optional

- Essay 4: (Optional). Are there other considerations of which we should be aware – financial need, family health concerns, other family circumstances?

Student Checklist for completed application:

_____ **Application, signed with signature and printed name**

_____ **Transcript**

_____ **Recommendation(s)** At least one (1) recommendation from someone in the field of education or activities related to children who has knowledge of your desire to be an educator. That person may not be a relative. This person should have recent knowledge of you and your activities. I.e., your 2nd grade teacher wouldn't be a good choice unless you have recently been in the class room as a volunteer working with the children. *A recommendation for college is **not** acceptable unless it focuses on your desire to become an educator.*

_____ **Resumé**

_____ **Essays**

Remember, your application and supporting materials must be submitted to your Career Center Specialist by the date determined by your high school. Each high school will submit their nominee(s) to:

Phyllis Rittman, Scholarship Director
W. Harold Ford Scholarship Foundation
P.O. Box 682
Springfield VA 22150-0682

postmarked no later than **MARCH 26, 2026.**