



MSBA FutureBuilders Scholarship

2026-2027 Student Application Preview & Preparation Guide

FOR INFORMATIONAL AND PREPARATION PURPOSES ONLY

This is not the official application. Your district must first submit the District Verification Form. After MSBA receives the verification, you will receive a personalized link to complete the official online application.

What this scholarship recognizes

The MSBA FutureBuilders Scholarship recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and determination while navigating a significant challenge or adversity. The scholarship is not limited to students planning to attend a four-year college.

AWARDS

\$1,000 Regional Winner

17 regional awards; State Winner receives an additional \$1,500.

STUDENT APPLICATION DEADLINE

January 21, 2027

Submit the online application and recommendation letter by 11:59 p.m. Central.

I. Student & school information

- Student name, School district, High school, Phone Number

That is the full student/school information section. Students are not asked to provide GPA, ACT/SAT scores, class rank, a transcript, financial information, parent/guardian information, or lists of activities and honors.

II. Recommendation letter

You will upload one recommendation letter with your application. The letter should be 1-2 pages, a PDF, and written by an adult who knows you well in an educational, professional, or mentorship context. The recommender may be a teacher, counselor, coach, employer, youth group leader, or another trusted adult. The recommender may not be a family member.

Ask your recommender to address:

- Their relationship to you and how long they have known you
- The nature of the challenge or adversity you have faced, to the extent appropriate to share
- How you responded, including examples of resilience, perseverance, or personal growth
- The positive impact you have had on others despite, or because of, the challenges you have faced
- Why they believe you are a strong candidate for this scholarship

III. Four written responses

You may draft your responses before opening the online application. Each response may be up to 3,000 characters, or roughly between 450-550 words. A strong response does not need to be long; focus on being specific, reflective, and authentic.

1. Challenge or Adversity

Describe a significant challenge or adversity that you have experienced or may continue to be experiencing. Explain the impact the challenge or adversity has had on your life and development as a young adult.

2. How You Navigated It

Describe how you navigated the challenge or adversity. Detail the lessons you have learned and the skills or insights you have gained.

3. Resilience, Growth, and Your Future

Explain how navigating the challenge or adversity has shaped your resilience and personal growth, and how you plan to use that knowledge toward your future academic or career goals.

4. Advice to Another Young Person

Describe the advice you would give to another young person facing a similar challenge or adversity, including actions that person should and should not take.

Before you receive your application link

- ☐ Draft your four written responses in a separate document.
- ☐ Choose your recommender and ask early so they have time to write a thoughtful letter.
- ☐ Ask your recommender to send the completed letter back to you so you can upload it with your application.
- ☐ Use a personal email address that you can access outside your school district account.

When your personalized link arrives

You do not have to finish the application in one sitting. You may save your progress and return to the application before the deadline. After submitting, you will be able to review and download a copy of your completed response.

Important: This preview is provided to help you prepare. Only the official online application submitted through your personalized MSBA link will be accepted.

Questions? Contact Dr. Katherine Hairston at hairston@mosba.org or 573-208-7885