SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER
RJ Reynolds High School
September 24, 2026

2027-28 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) The FAFSA form for 2027-28 opens on October 1, 2026. Create a FAFSA ID https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

Residency Determination Service (RDS)
Complete your RDS through https://www.ncresidency.org/. RDS Resources will answer all questions, from knowing the basics to helping students with undocumented parents, to the appeals process - all is readily available through easy-to-navigate instructions.
RDS enables a student to use one residency determination for applying to multiple North Carolina public colleges and universities and to demonstrate residency for state aid programs consideration at all (public and private) North Carolina colleges and universities. https://www.cfnc.org/education-professionals/get-help-with-residency-determination/

Are you a Crosby Scholar? Crosby Scholars has OVER 30 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES that are only available for Crosby Scholars Seniors! To learn more about the different types of scholarships that will be open soon. Check out Crosby's Scholarship Pathways for additional information and scholarships.

The RJR Scholarship Newsletter will include a sampling of scholarship opportunities that are available from colleges and universities but is in no way a comprehensive list. Questions about scholarships and financial aid may be directed to Mrs. Beale (nbbeale@wsfcs.k12.nc.us) and/or your school counselor. For scholarships published in the RJR scholarship newsletter, please follow the information, procedures, and contact links for the individual scholarships. Students should make an appointment to see their counselor if they have questions or need support. **We are here to help.**

The college application process can be overwhelming, but **NC College Connect** is simplifying it for North Carolina high school seniors. Students with GPAs of 2.8 or higher can be directly admitted to participating colleges and universities, and every public high school senior on track to graduate can be directly admitted to a local community college. Last year, more than 23,000 North Carolina seniors accepted direct admission offers through the program. NC College Connect PDF listing participating schools.

WINSTON-SALEM / FORSYTH COUNTY EMANCIPATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Criteria:	Academic Excellence (at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale), character, service to the community, strength of essay, personal interview, demonstrate financial need
Awards:	$1,000 (several)
Deadline:	November 6, 2026
Contact:	Application available on website Student Services/ Scholarship & Financial Information / Scholarship Newsletters or Ask Mrs. Stewart to print one.

NORTH CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS

Criteria:	UW GPA of 3.0, SAT/ACT not required but strongly encouraged, be willing to teach in a STEM, special education, or elementary education (K-6) licensure area in a North Carolina public school, traditional or charter. Partner Institutions: Appalachian State, East Carolina, Elon, Fayetteville State, Meredith, NC A&T, NC State, UNC Chapel-Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Pembroke
Awards:	up to $10,000 a year once the service requirement is met, the loan is fully forgiven.
Deadline:	Early Action Application Deadline: November 1, 2026
Contact:	https://myapps.northcarolina.edu/ncteachingfellows/apply/

UNCG SPARTAN EDUCATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Criteria: Seniors who plan to major in Education (Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, Deaf Education, Special Education, or Dual Elementary & Special Education) and have at least a 3.8 weighted cumulative GPA.
Deadline: For best consideration apply by January 1, 2027
Awards: Up to $28,000 scholarships distributed incrementally over four years
Contact: Visit https://soe.uncg.edu/soe-scholarships-funding/spartan-ed-scholar/ for more information and the application

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARHIPS

Criteria: Varies by scholarship
Awards: Varies by scholarship
Deadline: Deadlines for ECU scholarships start as early as October 15th
Contact: Link to ECU scholarship opportunities https://ecu.academicworks.com/opportunities

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Criteria: On a team at a NCHSAA member high school
Awards: Various
Deadline: Various
Contact: Applications and information at https://www.nchsaa.org/nchsaa-scholarship-opportunities/

UNCF SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS, INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Criteria: UNCF is the nation's largest private scholarship provider to minority group members. Each year, they award more than $62 million in scholarships to students attending more than 600 schools across the country, including the UNCF prestigious network of 36 HBCUs.
Awards: Various
Deadline: Various
Contact: Search for opportunities at https://uncf.org/scholarships For more information on UNCF Scholarships and Program opportunities call (202) 810-0258

NC ELKS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Criteria: Senior must be participating in a school curriculum that involves health care activities. It is also recommended that the applicant be in the top 25% of his/her class and be actively involved in nursing related activities.
Awards: $1,000 for one year
Deadline: December 8, 2026
Contact: Scholarship information and application available https://www.ncelks.org/nursing-scholarship

THE JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

Criteria: Applicant must be graduating, minority high school senior, plan to attend an accredited and approved four-year institution, show leadership potential, demonstrate a dedication to community service, present evidence of financial need
Awards: Various – around 60 awards annually
Deadline: January 14, 2027
Contact: Go to: https://jackierobinson.org/apply/

ELON UNIVERSITY – ODYSSEY PROGRAM

Criteria: A merit-based program for academically strong, civically engaged, action-oriented student leaders in their communities and demonstrate high financial need.
Awards: Multiple scholarships
Deadline: January 12 2027
Contact: Go to: Elon University / Undergraduate Admissions / Odyssey Program

RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Criteria: The Program which was named for the late Secretary of Commerce and inspired by his dedication to public service, focuses on encouraging civic engagement among scholars while promoting academic excellence, community and lifelong interactions. Recipients are young African Americans of outstanding promise who are offered academic scholarships, service opportunities and leadership experiences. Demonstrate financial need.

Awards: Scholarships 20 ($10,000 per year for four years)

Deadline: December 1, 2026

Contact: Information and application available at: https://ronbrown.org/apply/ron-brown-scholarship/

JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Criteria: Students with a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.75 or higher and demonstrate financial need. Will consider participation in advanced courses and commitment to learning. Leadership, persistence and service to others. Will consider applicants with family annual gross income up to $95,000

Awards: Various scholarships – can be as much as $55,000 per year

Deadline: November 11, 2026 Student will apply through the Common App.

Contact: More information and online application at: **https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/college-scholarship-program/how-to-apply/**

HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION YOUTH AWARDS

Criteria: Have a minimum unweighted 3.0 GPA, be of Hispanic Heritage, excel in the classroom and community, must enroll in an accredited higher education institution in 2027-28.

Awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze recipients are selected in each category (view website)

Deadline: November 1, 2026

Contact: Apply at https://hispanicheritage.org/programs/leadership/youth-awards/

