



Grow Our Own Educational Assistance Fund

Background

In order to assist the Henderson County Public Schools' effort to create a teaching and administrative staff that is consistent with the racial diversity of the student body, the HCEF Board of Directors initiated the Grow Our Own Educational Assistance Fund in partnership with a community coalition and individual and corporate donors in the Spring of 2021. This scholarship recruits Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students (current and former) and current HCPS staff (teaching assistant, support personnel) interested in a teaching career, to train, develop and prepare them to return to Henderson County to join the teaching workforce.

Scholarship Amount & Appropriations

- Up to \$3,000 per year; Renewable for up to four years
- The number of scholarships available each year will be based on the level of donor and grant support, and thus made through an annual appropriation from the HCEF Board of Directors.

Criteria & Service Obligation

- High School senior preparing to graduate in June 2022; Graduate of Henderson County Public Schools; or current HCPS staff member
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) student or staff member
- Intentions to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Education
- Commitment to return, within two years post-college graduation, to teach at one of the 23 Henderson County Public Schools for at least three years*
- Demonstrate financial need
- For 2022 graduates: Minimum weighted GPA of 3.0 (*preferred*)
- For 2022 graduates: Completion of Teaching as a Profession 1 (*preferred*)

Requirements While Enrolled in College

- Maintain a full-course load (12 credits per semester) or get approval from the Foundation
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Provide the Foundation with information about their enrollment, grades and academic status in a timely manner
- Regular contact with an Education Mentor provided through HCPS & HCEF (*strongly encouraged*)

Application & Selection Process

- Scholarships will be provided through a competitive application process consisting of:
 1. Application and essays
 2. Official transcript
 3. Two letters of recommendation from persons who can assess the applicant's potential capacity as a future teacher
- Interview with the Grow Our Own coalition (panel of educators and community members)

Timeline

- December 10, 2021: [Scholarship Application Period Opens](#)
- April 4, 2022: Application Due
- April 2022: Interview
- June 2022: Scholarship Awards Announced

*Upon graduation, recipients would be expected to complete the HCPS hiring process.

