



Every student is different, and so is every dream. At the Rockingham Educational Foundation, Inc. (REFI) we believe everyone deserves an opportunity to further their education. We work closely with community supporters and generous donors to provide the right scholarship opportunities for deserving high school seniors in Rockingham County Public Schools (RCPS). It is our number one priority to ensure those students who are motivated and able to go to college have the financial resources to do so. For over 25 years our scholarships have supported bigger dreams and brighter futures for hundreds of students. REFI currently manages nearly 75 scholarships per year!

## **Scholarship FAQ**

### **Who is eligible to apply for a REFI scholarship?**

Any high school senior who attends Broadway, East Rockingham, Spotswood, Turner Ashby, or Rockingham Academy can apply for a scholarship.

### **What type of scholarships are offered through REFI?**

REFI offers nearly 75 scholarships ranging from \$500-\$2500 for students who are interested in a variety of future professions, including teaching, nursing, engineering, technical training and more. Many of our scholarships are memorial scholarships and honor the families wishes to carry on the legacy of their loved ones. For a full listing of scholarships, visit [www.refigivesback.org](http://www.refigivesback.org)

### **How do I apply for a scholarship with the Rockingham Educational Foundation Inc. (REFI)?**

In order to apply for any of the REFI scholarships, you only need to complete one online scholarship application, starting **November 4, 2019**. To start an application, go to [www.refigivesback.org](http://www.refigivesback.org), click on the 'What We Do' then 'Scholarship' and 'Apply Now'. You will be instructed to enter your email address and create a password to start the application. Please register using the student name, not the parent name. You will be able to save the application and come back later to complete it until the deadline, which is **March 2, 2020**. You can find a list of scholarships on the same page. Some may have additional essays that you must submit to apply.

**Who will review the applications?**

The scholarships to be reviewed by the REFI selection committee are scholarships open to all four high schools. If a scholarship selected by the school's selection committee requires an essay, that essay may be used for the scholarship reviewed by the REFI selection committee.

**What should be included in the application and how do I know if I am eligible?**

Applicants must provide a photo, their high school transcript, at least two school officials 'letters of recommendation', a listing of extracurricular & volunteer activities and one essay (not to exceed 500 words entitled "Why I Should be Considered for this Scholarship". All applicants must be a member in good standing in their senior class, must graduate to receive the scholarship, and must plan to attend an accredited institution of higher learning. Additional criteria pertaining to each scholarship is listed online.

**How will my scholarship funds be distributed?**

Checks for scholarships will be paid directly to the college/university and sent to the recipient for delivery to the college in July. Once your scholarship funds are deposited into your school account, it is up to your college how they want to distribute the funds. Contact your Financial Aid Office for their disbursement schedule and policy. Some schools divide the total amount between 2 to 4 semesters. If you also received a scholarship from your college for a specific amount, the amount should not be reduced because we awarded you this scholarship. If you notice that your college has been reduced after we send your scholarship, please call us to let us know.

**Why do I need to write a thank you letter to my scholarship donor?**

The companies and individuals who donate to REFI's Scholarship Program are doing so because they believe in education and in some cases want to honor their loved ones. There are many causes they can give their contributions to; however, they've chosen to help the students of Rockingham County Public Schools further their education and it is very important to thank them in any way we can.

For additional questions contact Katie LaPira by phone at 540/564-3218, email [klapira@rockingham.k12.va.us](mailto:klapira@rockingham.k12.va.us) or mail to Rockingham Educational Foundation Inc. 100 Mount Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.