



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 26 years our scholarships have supported bigger dreams and brighter futures for hundreds of students. REFI currently manages nearly 80 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 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 family wishes to carry on the legacy of their loved ones.

If a donor would like to endow a scholarship, which means the money is invested and the scholarship is awarded based on the earnings of the endowment, the minimum amount to contribute to REFI is \$20,000. Alternatively, a donor can make a one-time contribution each year that the scholarship is awarded. In this case REFI will work with a donor each year to make sure that enough money is in the scholarship fund to make the award.

A bequest can be made through your will or living trust and can result in tax savings to your estate. In your will, you may designate a specific gift, a percentage of your estate or the remainder after specific distributions are made. Your attorney can advise you on the many ways to leave the Rockingham Educational Foundation a gift while saving your estate taxes, providing for a survivor, or both.

Whether you use a will or living trust, use the following information for a simple bequest to the Rockingham Educational Foundation Inc.

- Charitable organization name: Rockingham Educational Foundation Inc. (REFI)
- Organization's location: Harrisonburg, VA
- Describe the gift as well as your wishes to direct the gift's use

For a full listing of scholarships, visit <https://www.refigivesback.org/scholarships.html>

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

In order to apply for any of the REFI scholarships, they need to complete one online scholarship application, starting **November 1** the deadline to apply is **March 1**.

## **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, unless other arrangements are made with REFI.

## **What is included in the application?**

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 are the scholarship funds 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 scholarship funds are deposited into their school account, it is up to the college how they want to distribute the funds.

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.