



3440 Liberty Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704
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February 16, 2024

Dear Future Teacher:

The Springfield Education Association (SEA) is offering a scholarship for students who plan to pursue a career in public school teaching. The scholarship was instituted in honor of a former SEA teacher, Sue Handy, and has been continued under the auspices of the SEA.

The scholarship is available to any graduating senior who has attended a District #186 high school for at least one year, or to a student whose parent or legal guardian is an employee of District #186, provided the student is enrolled in a public school.

This scholarship is designed to assist a deserving student who plans to become a public school teacher. Students chosen for the scholarship(s) will receive \$2,500 payable over four years who provide a copy of their transcripts and/or proof of enrollment by the first week in August.

A COMPLETED APPLICATION must include the following:

1. Typed Background Information Sheet
2. Typed, two-page, double-spaced essay discussing why you want to become a public school teacher and who inspired you to follow this career path.
3. Two letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be from a current or former teacher. (Please note letters of recommendation will not be accepted from any relatives.)
4. All applicants must include high school transcripts. (Once a college student, you must also provide your college transcript annually (by August 1) in order to maintain the award.)
5. A typed resume stating all extra-curricular activities, honors and awards received, community service and work experience.
6. Proof of acceptance at a recognized college or university in a teacher-preparation program.

An online application can be downloaded at www.springfieldeducation.org.

All applicant packets must be submitted to Springfield Education Association, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 by **April 12, 2024**.

Finalists should be available to be interviewed on **Thursday, May 16, 2024**, by representatives of the SEA Scholarship Committee. You will be notified of the time for a personal interview. Scholarship recipients/continuant will be announced by the end of May 2024 or at the recipients' Awards Assembly, if applicable.

If chosen as a recipient of the scholarship, official transcripts and schedule will need to be submitted to the SEA office Attn: Scholarship Committee no later than August 1 of each year. The award will then be paid out the first week Springfield District 186 is in session in the new school year.

We appreciate your interest in furthering public school education. We look forward to considering your application. If you have questions regarding your application, contact the SEA-IEA office at 217-787-7060.

Sincerely,

Sue Handy Scholarship Committee