2026 UPEA Scholarship Application Form

Utah Public Employees Association

UPEA 2026 Scholarship Rules and Information:

The 2026 Utah Public Employees Association (UPEA) scholarships are financial awards based on scholastic ability, leadership, positive influence, community service, and future career plans. **Three (3) applicants will be awarded $1,000 scholarships*** in August and winners will be invited to a UPEA board meeting to be recognized.

UPEA members, their spouses, and/or their dependents are eligible*. Individuals who have been awarded this scholarship within the past two (2) years are not eligible. This application must be completed by the student. All applications must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. on August 14, 2026. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Scholarship Selection Committee.*

In addition to this form, applicants must attach the following documents:

1. Scholastic transcripts listing grades from the past three (3) high school/college reporting periods. If available, please include ACT/SAT scores.

2. A written summary, no more than 500 words, explaining how the student meets the judging criteria (scholastic ability, leadership, positive influence, community service, and future career plans) and why they wish to receive the scholarship. Applications found to contain artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content will be disqualified.

Applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- 25%—Scholastic ability
- 25%—Leadership and positive influence
- 25%—Community involvement and personal interests
- 25%—Future career aspirations

*The number of scholarships awarded shall not exceed the lesser of: (a) three awards, or (b) 25% of the total number of eligible applicants in a given cycle. In the event that fewer than 12 eligible applications are received, the UPEA Board of Directors reserves the right to reduce the number of awards granted that cycle.

*Eligibility is limited to current UPEA members in good standing and their dependents or spouses. Membership is verified before applicants are considered for scholarships. UPEA membership requires active employment with the State of Utah or one of its political subdivisions, this requirement serves to verify the applicant's or sponsor's status as a Utah public employee. All eligible applicants are evaluated solely on the objective criteria outlined in the scoring rubric.

*All Selection Committee members must disclose any personal, professional, or familial relationship with any applicant prior to the review process. Any committee member with a conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from scoring or deliberating on that applicant's materials. Conflicts of interest and recusals will be documented and retained in UPEA's scholarship records.

(801) 264-8732

141 East 5600 South, Suite #120
Murray, UT 84107

www.upea.net

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Please complete and submit page 2 and 3 in addition to all other required documents.

Required Document Checklist:

- ☐ Completed application form
- ☐ Scholastic transcripts
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ ACT/SAT scores (if available)

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all criteria in **one (1)** of the following categories. Please check which category applies to you:

☐ **Student with Required Sponsor**

- Full-time undergraduate or half-time graduate student*
- Spouse and/or dependent child/ legal ward* of a full-time employee of the state of Utah or one of its political subdivisions (i.e., county, municipality, special services district or higher education institution). This individual agrees to serve as sponsor.
- UPEA member: Yes_____ -or- No_____
- Currently enrolled or accepted for study during fall 2026 quarter/ semester at an accredited two- or four-year college or university
- Registered in a higher education program leading to a degree
- Achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) during the most recent three scholastic reporting periods

☐ **Public Employee/Student**

- Full-time employee of the state of Utah or one of its political subdivisions (i.e., county, municipality, special services district or higher education institution)
- UPEA member: Yes _____-or- No _____
- Currently enrolled or accepted for study during fall 2026 quarter/ semester at an accredited two- or four-year college or university*
- Registered for at least half-time undergraduate or graduate study in a higher education program leading to a degree
- Achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) during the most recent three scholastic reporting periods

*Applicants must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree-leading program at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or technical college. Fully online degree programs at accredited institutions are eligible. Self-paced correspondence courses, non-credit programs, and certificate-only programs that do not lead to an academic degree are not eligible.
*A dependent child/legal ward must be unmarried and 25 years old or younger

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STUDENT/ APPLICANT PROFILE

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

University/ College: _____

_____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Employer: _____

Student Status (e.g., Entering Freshman): _____

Major/ Field of Study: _____

_____

Degree Being Pursued (e.g., Bachelor's, Master's): _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

_____

_____

SPONSOR PROFILE

Complete this section if you checked the "Student with Required Sponsor" category

Sponsor's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Employer: _____

Home Address: _____

_____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

_____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

All information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and my essay is my own original work and has not been generated or drafted using artificial intelligence (AI) tools of any kind. I understand that false information or the use of AI-generated content may render my ineligibility for scholarship consideration

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail or email your completed application packet to:

Mail:
UPEA
Attn: Madison Cherrington
141 East 5600 South Suite #120
Murray, Utah 84107

Email:
Madison Cherrington at madi@upea.net.