



Guidelines for the Rural Missouri Scholarship Fund

Missouri Association of Rural Education

OVERVIEW:

The level of economic development of an area is directly related to the quality of education available. To improve the economic development of rural Missouri, an adequate number of well-trained, dedicated teachers must be available to instruct in rural school districts.

OBJECTIVES:

The goals to be achieved through the Rural Missouri Scholarship Fund include:

- ❑ Attracting quality teachers to rural school districts
- ❑ Improving the economic development of rural communities by upgrading the education system to provide a well-educated, skilled work force
- ❑ Attract intelligent, energetic individuals to furnish leadership skills in rural communities

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

MARE's scholarship committee has recommended the general criteria to include:

- ❑ Academic achievement
- ❑ Leadership qualities
- ❑ Interest in teaching in a rural school system

COMPONENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA:

Only junior and senior-level Missouri college/university students qualify as scholarship recipients. (Exception – Colleges/Universities that do not approve a students' major in education until they are enrolled in a 5th year)

program) Eligible students are those who have successfully completed 60 credit hours and have declared a major in education. There is no limit to the number of scholarship applications that each college or university may submit.

A scholarship recipient may reapply in a subsequent year for another scholarship.

Applicants must have achieved 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

An essay must be submitted describing the applicant's connection to, and interest in rural Missouri, and why they want to teach in a rural community. This essay should be no more than two pages, double-spaced.

Applicants must also provide personal recommendations from three college/university education professors. These recommendations should include comments on the following:

- ❑ Leadership ability
- ❑ Scholastic achievement
- ❑ Dependability
- ❑ Ability to relate to students and faculty
- ❑ Potential for success as a rural teacher

A complete copy of college transcripts is required with the application.

The application form includes such items as:

- ❑ What is the degree of your financial need?
- ❑ How are you funding your education?
- ❑ What other scholarships have you been granted?
- ❑ What is your major area of course study?
- ❑ In what activities have you participated while in school? (Clubs, student government, sports, volunteerism, etc.)

Applicant agrees to be present to receive the award at the MARE Summer Board Meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the MASA Building located at 3550 Amazonas Drive in Jeff City!

SCREENING PROCEDURES:

MARE will contact Missouri colleges/universities offering teaching degrees, asking that each submit candidate applications. The applications will be screened by the Scholarship Committee, which is responsible for naming scholarship recipients.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

Mr. Kevin Sandlin, Executive Director
MARE Scholarship Fund
Missouri Association of Rural Education
710 N College Street, Suite C
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093-1220

SCHOLARSHIP – IMPORTANT DATES:

Distribution to Colleges/Universities	11/15/2025
Application Deadline – Received at MARE Office	03/13/2026
Selection Meeting	No later than April 17, 2026
ANTICIPATED MARE Announcement	April 24, 2026
Official Presentation – Summer Board Meeting	July 23, 2026

****** Scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each!**

APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF RURAL EDUCATION

Name: _____

Address (Spring/Summer): _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____
Home and Cell

Email Address
(Spring/Summer): _____

High School Attended: _____

College/University
Attending: _____ Location _____

Major: _____

Hours Completed:
(End of Spring Semester) _____

Advisor: _____

Parent (Guardian)
Name: _____

Parent (Guardian)
Address: _____
City/State _____ ZIP Code: _____

Grade Point
Average: _____

How is your education being funded?

Do you have other scholarships? _____. If yes, please state the name, duration, and amount of each scholarship.
(yes/no)

In which extracurricular activities do you participate? (Clubs, student government, sports, etc.)?

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

1. A brief essay discussing the attributes and experiences beyond classwork you will offer as an effective teacher in a rural Missouri community. (Maximum length of two pages, double spaced).
2. Personal recommendations from the following that include comments on leadership ability, scholastic achievement, dependability, ability to relate to other students/faculty and potential for success as a rural teacher:
 - a. Three recommendations from a college/university education professor where applicant is currently attending.
3. A copy of your current college transcript.