

WISCONSIN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Wisconsin's Academic Excellence Scholarship is a state-supported program, jointly administered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB). The program offers scholarship recipients an exemption from specified tuition and fees for post-secondary education at eligible higher education institutions in Wisconsin.

A scholar who is otherwise eligible to receive a monetary award under the scholarship program shall receive an award only if all of the following apply:

- 1) The scholar is enrolled at Rice Lake High School for the last four continuous full semesters prior to graduation from Rice Lake High School. The seventh semester for computing a cumulative grade point average could be the third semester of continuous enrollment for the recipient.
- 2) The scholar is a resident of the United States who is either a citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence by the federal immigration and naturalization service.
- 3) The scholar is a Wisconsin resident according to state statute.
- 4) Students participating in the full-time open enrollment program shall compete for the scholarship at the high school they actually attend.
- 5) The scholar shall be selected based on the scholar's cumulative GPA as it is normally determined by each high school and as shown on the official transcript after completion of the seventh semester.
- 6) The school's nominees and alternates are finalized at the second Board of Education meeting in February.

As required by the State of Wisconsin Higher Education Aids Board, Wisconsin high schools must choose the senior student(s) with the highest cumulative grade point average as of the end of the fall semester for this award.

At the end of the first semester, Rice Lake High School will nominate the senior names who have the highest cumulative GPA for this scholarship. Grade point average at Rice Lake High School is determined using the following factors:

1. Letter grades (A-F) issued by all courses in high school will be factored into the GPA.
2. Grades issued by RLHS are unweighted and will be factored in equally.
3. Grades issued on a pass/fail-satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis will not be factored into the GPA.
4. Grades from other high schools/alternative schools will be factored into the GPA as if the grades were earned here at RLHS (unweighted and factored in equally).

If there are any ties that exist between our students being considered for the Wisconsin Academic Scholarships, the criteria enumerated below will be used in the order listed to break the ties:

1. Declaration by the student and parent(s) that the student intends to utilize the scholarship.
2. American College Test score (highest official score from ACT reported to the high school by February 1st of senior year.)
3. Students with the most points from the following criteria based on their schedule to the end of term 2:
 - a. 2 points for every high school credit earned through term 2 of senior year and every credit signed-up for in terms 3 and 4 of senior year.
 - b. 1 point for every term of core courses successfully completed through term 2 of senior year and every core course signed up for in terms 3 and 4 of senior year. Core courses consist of the following: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language.
 - c. 1 point for each advanced placement course completed and signed-up for by the end of the senior year (.5 points awarded for partial completion of an advanced placement course).
4. Written paper (independently judged)

If students with the highest cumulative GPA are unable/unwilling to accept the Academic Excellence Scholarship, Rice Lake High School will designate alternative scholars in order by the next highest GPA. This list of alternate students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.800 or higher to be considered.

Legal Ref: 36.27, 118.13 WSS; PI 9.013(1) WAC
Cross Ref: 460 Student Awards and Scholarships
Adopted: 06/15/06
Revised: 04/13/09
04/28/14
06/14/2021