

Students

Progress

Student Scholarships, Gifts, and Awards

The Board of Education encourages the acceptance and disbursement of student scholarships and awards to graduating seniors. All gifts, scholarships, and awards to students, whether in a direct or indirect monetary form, shall be accepted through activities and from donors that are recommended by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the school administration. Scholarships and awards given by non-school organizations, in which the school is directly responsible for determining the recipient and/or qualifications for receiving such scholarship or award, must be accepted and approved by the Board prior to the disbursement of the scholarship or award.

Students shall be informed by the Scholarship chairperson of any available academic scholarships. Literature concerning available scholarships shall be posted in the school building. The Scholarship chairperson shall maintain records of available scholarships and shall notify students of such scholarship opportunities.

In order to be eligible for academic scholarships in the District, a student must hold senior class standing and have been enrolled for five consecutive trimesters of course work as a Watertown Unified School District student immediately prior to the awarding of the scholarship. Exceptions will be made for students who were enrolled in a study abroad program and other extraordinary circumstances. To attain senior standing a student must have earned at least 15.5 credits (17.5 effective with the Class of 2021).

The Watertown Unified School District shall not discriminate in the acceptance and administration of gifts, bequests, scholarships and other aids, benefits or services to students from private agencies, organizations or persons on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship

The Watertown Unified School District shall annually designate academic scholars, for the purposes of the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship. The scholars shall be the senior with the highest grade point average (GPAC) computation in all subjects. The grade point average calculation will be calculated in accordance with School Board Policy #5222 Laude System. The scholars shall be named in accordance with timelines required by law.

Students must hold senior class standing and be enrolled full-time in the Watertown Unified School District for the five consecutive trimesters immediately prior to the awarding of the scholarship. The GPAC computed at the end of the winter trimester will be used to award the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship. To attain senior class standing a student must have earned at least 15.5 credits (17.5 effective with the Class of 2021).

In the event of a tie, the scholarship committee shall use the following criteria to break the tie to name

the scholars and prioritize the remaining students as alternates:

1. Students must have applied, been accepted, and commit to attend a Wisconsin public college or technical school or a participating private college in Wisconsin.
2. If a tie continues to exist, the student(s) with the highest score on the American College Test (ACT) by the end of the tenth (fall) trimester. If any of the students involved have taken the exam more than once, the highest composite score received, prior to the end of the tenth (fall) trimester will be used.
3. If a tie continues to exist, the student(s) with the highest total number of credits earned in core curriculum courses as identified by the University System: English, Social Studies, Math, and Science.
4. If a tie continues to exist, it shall be broken by a chance drawing of names by the Board of Education with the first name drawn being named the scholar and the remaining names drawn to prioritize the alternates.

Technical Excellence Scholarships (TES)

The Watertown Unified School District shall annually designate students for the purposes of the Technical Excellence Scholarship. The students shall be seniors who have the highest demonstrated level of proficiency in technical education subjects. Students must be enrolled full-time in the Watertown Unified School District for the five consecutive trimesters immediately prior to the awarding of the scholarship. The number of scholarships will be based on total student enrollment.

In order to be eligible for nomination to a TES scholarship, a student must exhibit interest in and planning for a technical career. In addition in order to be eligible for a TES scholarship, a student must also have completed at least one of the following eight eligibility items. Students awarded a TES scholarship must have:

1. Be a Career Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator, which is a high school student who has completed at least three (3) high school CTE courses in program areas leading to a degree or diploma in the student's chosen pathway. A student may be enrolled in (rather than have completed) the third course at the time of their nomination for TES.)
2. Participated in a youth Apprenticeship program.
3. Participated in a Technical High School Diploma program.
4. Participated in a Career and Technical Training pathway.
5. Participated in a Skills Standards program.
6. Completed (or be on track to complete) an industry-recognized certification program.
7. Participated in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in Wisconsin: DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, or Skills USA.
8. Completed a technical training program for high school students.

The Watertown Unified School District shall use the point system to rank eligible candidates created by the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB).

The ranking system consists of ranking eligible students according to a point system reflective of course work and technical education experience. Under the recommended point system:

- One point is given to a student for each credit earned in high school in CTE.
- One point is given to a student for each year of activity in a Career and Technical Student Organization in Wisconsin.

- For the purpose of assigning a ranking among eligible candidates, credit hours in process at the time of nomination should be counted toward the number of credits the student has earned.

When students emerge from the point system with tied scores, CTE grades become the tie-breaker. Because some students may have the same credit-hours at the time of nomination, Watertown Unified School District will assign rankings to “tied” students based on the grade point earned by eligible students in CTE courses.

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