



Progress • Accomplishment • Thriving • Hope

Ellucian Foundation PATH Scholarship Program 2026-27 Application Guide for U.S. Schools

Thank you for your interest in applying for funding from the Ellucian Foundation's 2026-27 **Progress * Accomplishment * Thriving * Hope (PATH) Scholarship Program**. In this seventh year of the program, the Ellucian Foundation is inviting applications from public four-year institutions. Public four-year Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are strongly encouraged to apply. PATH offers funds that will allow institutions to assist students who have experienced economic hardships that could negatively impact their ability to remain enrolled.

The Ellucian Foundation will award block grants of \$10,000, \$15,000, and \$25,000 (USD) to selected schools, which will use the funds to provide awards of up to \$2,500 to eligible students. Schools will have considerable flexibility in determining the selection criteria and individual award amounts that best fit their affected students' needs.

This guide will assist you in completing and submitting the application, available at stayonpath.org. It will also offer suggestions that we hope will help you to become a successful applicant.

Application Timeline

Applications for 2026-27 PATH Scholarship funding open on April 20, 2026 and are due to the Ellucian Foundation by June 5, 2026 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Schools will be notified of the results of their application on or about July 24, 2026. Decisions of the independent granting committee will be final.

Selected schools will receive their funds on or about September 11, 2026, and will be required to disburse those funds no later than October 30, 2026. Schools will then be required to report awarding and disbursement details to the Ellucian Foundation by December 11, 2026.

Key dates for the 2026-27 PATH Scholarship are listed below:

April 20, 2026	PATH Scholarship application opens
June 5, 2026	Application deadline
June 8 – June 26, 2026	Independent committee review of applications

On or about July 24, 2026	Schools notified of committee decisions
September 11, 2026	Schools receive PATH Scholarship funds from the Ellucian Foundation to distribute to students
October 30, 2026	PATH Scholarships distributed in full by recipient schools
December 11, 2026	Schools complete reporting requirements to the Ellucian Foundation

Application Overview

School Eligibility

Schools must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be a public four-year institution as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
- NCES defines institutional 'Type' on its [College Navigator website](#).
- Be eligible to participate in the Title IV Federal Student Aid programs.
- Be in good standing* with their governing body, accrediting agency, state, and U.S. Department of Education as appropriate. (*If the school is not in good standing, it will have an opportunity to explain why and still receive consideration.)

Schools must also agree to established terms and conditions, which include:

- Affirming that PATH Scholarship funding will not replace or supplant other grant assistance.
- Committing to the timeframe of awarding funds and reporting data.
- Agreeing to use the funds solely for student support; use of the funds to cover administrative costs is prohibited.
- Affirming that it will award only eligible students.

Schools will be asked to provide information about the institution including basic questions about their population experiencing financial hardships. In addition, schools will be asked to provide information concerning the:

- Percentage of students that received the Federal Pell Grant during the 2025-2026 academic year
- Top three current needs of their student population;
- Anticipated effect of the funding on recipients;

- Philosophy and approach for how the school will select students (including any additional criteria imposed);
- How the proposal assists students experiencing economic hardships, ensuring that they are able to continue their education;
- Plans for promoting the program;
- Proposed selection process;
- Plans for how the funds will be disbursed;
- Proposed individual award amounts;
- Percentage of enrolled students who meet the established eligibility criteria;
- Compliance with reporting requirements, including collecting permission from recipients to share information with the Ellucian Foundation, if applicable;
- Current student retention and/or persistence initiatives and how the PATH Scholarship funds would assist with those efforts; and
- Efforts made by the institution, if any, to provide new, expanded, and/or modified programs designed to serve the evolving needs of the community and respond to students' financial challenges.

Student Eligibility

In addition to experiencing financial hardships, students must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible to receive funds:

- Currently enrolled at least half-time at the institution.
- Be a regular student, defined as:
 - Seeking a credential, defined as a degree or certificate (including certificates for short-term programs)
 - Not dually enrolled in high school and postsecondary education.
 - In good academic standing at time of awarding and disbursement.

Fund Disbursement

The PATH Scholarship program is designed to help institutions meet the immediate needs of their students who are experiencing financial challenges so that those students can continue to attend. For that reason, the funds must be fully disbursed by October 30, 2026. Schools may choose the disbursement methods that best meet their students' needs.

Schools may determine that some recipients' needs might require more than the \$2,500 maximum award. In those rare cases, schools may request exceptions to the maximum award. To request an exception, email the Ellucian Foundation Team at

PATHScholarship@Ellucian.com with a brief narrative explaining the reason for the exception. Exceptions will be evaluated on the basis of 1) being reasonable and 2) not diminishing the impact of the PATH Scholarship funding for other recipients or the institution.

Fund Reporting

The Ellucian Foundation uses data to evaluate the success of the program, and to plan improvements for subsequent years. To that end, schools will be required to report the following information about each awarded student:

- Student's name
- Student's program of study
- Student's anticipated graduation/completion date
- Award amount
- A brief explanation of the student's need (no more than 100 words per student)
- Schools may categorize student recipients and provide a description of each category.
- Copies of student statements (which are encouraged, and which can be anonymous) that describe the importance of receiving the funds in allowing their continued enrollment or completion of their academic program.
- Reporting is required to provide the Ellucian Foundation with an understanding of the PATH Scholarship's reach and impact on students and institutions.

In addition, schools will be required to report the number of enrolled students who requested or received funding from any source to assist with a financial need during Fall 2026.

This information is due to the Ellucian Foundation by December 11, 2026.

Application Tips

We hope that the following will help you complete and submit a successful application:

- Follow instructions closely to ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the established deadline.
- Consider all of the reasons that students may have experienced financial challenges that placed their continued enrollment in jeopardy, and how those students can best demonstrate those needs to you.
- Make a compelling case for how you will use the funds to ensure that your recipients will have the best chance of completing their education.
- Consider how PATH Scholarship funding will complement other available funding to provide optimal assistance to your students.

- Contact the Ellucian Foundation Team at PATHScholarship@Ellucian.com if you have questions about the application or process.