



Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Pursuant to § 30-231.1 et seq., Code of Virginia

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established in 2005 in accordance with § 30-231.1 of the Code of Virginia to provide free education to students who were denied education in the public schools of Virginia between 1954 and 1964 when, in defiance of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* desegregation ruling, several cities and counties closed their schools.

2022–2023 Scholarships

In the 2022–2023 academic year, two students were awarded scholarships through the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, and funds were disbursed for both students. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) disbursed funds accordingly:

	Undergraduate (Two Students)
Virginia Western Community College	\$2,431.00
Liberty University	\$6,873.00
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Total Awards	\$9,304.00

By the end of the 2022–2023 academic year, the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Fund had awarded in total \$1,313,961.63 to 89 individual students over the course of 18 years, with \$1,017,282.85 remaining in the fund's balance.

2023–2024 Scholarships

The Committee awarded renewal scholarships to two students for the 2022–2023 academic year and awarded one scholarship to a new applicant to the program.

2024–2025 Scholarship Expansion

During the 2023 Regular Session, the General Assembly passed HB 1419 (Kory, 2023) and identical SB 1498 (McClellan, 2023), expanding eligibility for the scholarship program to descendants of anyone who was eligible for the scholarship under the scholarship's original criteria. HB 1419 and SB 1498 included

"lineal and collateral" descendants in the definition of "eligible student" for the purposes of the scholarship program, which includes children and grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews of any generation.

The Committee determined that it would implement the program expansion beginning with the 2024–2025 academic year. For the first year of the expansion, the Committee set a cap on the number of new students to be accepted in to the program at 10 students per year and capped the award amount at \$10,000 per student. The Committee determined that it would remain committed to ensuring that students who were directly impacted by the school closings would continue to be prioritized for scholarship awards. The Committee also determined that it would prioritize acceptance of new students into the program based on students' degree of relationship to directly affected individuals.

The Committee plans to accept scholarships under the new criteria from January 15, 2024, through April 12, 2024, and will meet in spring 2024 to determine scholarship awards.

Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Application

The Committee sent a letter of support for an application for a Congressionally Directed Spending grant to Senators Kaine and Warner. The grant, if approved, would bring \$500,000 in new funding to the Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Fund and would support the program's eligibility expansion.

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