

The 23rd Annual
“STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE”
THE RICHARD ATKINSON SCHOLARSHIP

Application for the 2024 Award

What is the “Striving for Excellence” Scholarship?

The “Striving for Excellence” scholarship is a \$7,500 award for post-high school education at a four-year college or university. The scholarship is renewable for 3 additional years of post-high school education for a total of \$30,000 when the conditions of the scholarship, as set forth below, are met.

- a. Student must maintain a B (3.0) average and submit an official transcript to the committee prior to each annual grant.
- b. Each year the student must submit a letter to the committee explaining their continued ***“Pursuit of Excellence”***.
- c. Freshman year grant will be paid at the beginning of the second semester or as soon as requirements have been met. Subsequent grants will be paid prior to the first semester if transcripts and letter from prior year are submitted on time.

Who can apply?

Juniors who have been enrolled at Southwick Regional School since the beginning of their sophomore year and who plan on continuous enrollment through their graduation. They must also live in Southwick, Tolland or Granville.

Selection Process

Students will not be considered for a scholarship unless their application and all supporting documents are mailed by the deadline. A review committee will meet and narrow the applicants down to the finalists. Finalists must be available for an interview in early May. Scholarship winner will be announced during the Spring Awards assembly at Southwick Regional School the following day. The scholarship will be based on the following criteria:

- a. A review of the applicant’s sealed transcript of high school grades.
- b. A letter of reference from an individual who has known the student while the student has attended Southwick Regional School and who has supported the student’s ***“Pursuit of Excellence”***.
- c. A review of the applicant’s essay.
- d. The interview.

Deadline

Cover page, essay, transcript and letter of reference must be mailed to the address below and postmarked no later than **March 31, 2024**:

**Southwick Regional School
Attn: Kim Gepfert
93 Feeding Hills Road
Southwick, MA 01077**

COVER PAGE

Applicant's Name _____

Home Address _____

Telephone: _____

Parents are (check all that apply) ___ both living ___ divorced ___ mother deceased ___ father deceased

Mother's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Father's Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Date you enrolled at Southwick Regional School: _____

Date of Residency: _____

On a separate sheet:

- List school and community activities in which you have been active and any honors or awards you have received. Also list any hobbies that are important to you.
- In a brief statement, describe how you plan to help defray the costs of your own education. Include present employment and future plans.

In an essay of approximately five hundred words address the following:

A. Discuss a specific activity or interest in which you have achieved excellence through significant and sustained effort. Include in your discussion:

- How long have you pursued this activity or interest?
- What were your goals and what efforts were required to attain them?
- In what ways did you achieve excellence and how were they tangibly demonstrated?
- How have you changed personally as a result of your efforts?

B. What lessons from your pursuit of excellence will you apply to your future education?

Southwick Dollars for Scholars has the responsibility to select, at its sole discretion, recipients based on the criteria as set forth in the program description. Falsification of information may result in termination of the scholarship. In signing this application you acknowledge that the decisions of Southwick Dollars for Scholars are final.

I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements of the program as described. The information I have provided in this application is complete and accurate.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____