



## College Savings Match Application FAQs

**\*For use by high schools, college adviser, and community organizations working with potential applicants\***

### When can 9<sup>th</sup> grade students apply for the KC Scholars scholarship?

- January 1, 2021 – February 25, 2022

### What are the eligibility requirements?

1. Be a current 9<sup>th</sup> grader during the application cycle;
2. Be home-schooled or attend a public, charter, or private high school in the following 6 counties: Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte (MO) or Johnson and Wyandotte (KS);
3. Be a U.S. citizen or resident alien with a verified U.S. address and valid Social Security number or other taxpayer identification number
4. Have at least a 2.5 high school GPA (fall semester of 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
5. Be considered low- or modest-income. Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation on the Federal Student Aid Estimator must be 12,000 or less. The calculation is based on household income, number of members in the family and number of family members that will be in college at the same time. It is the amount of annual financial support a family can be expected to pay toward the student's college education.

### Are students with existing 529 college savings accounts eligible to apply?

- Yes, students with existing 529 college savings accounts are eligible to apply for the College Savings Match programs.

### What is a 529 college savings account?

- A 529 college savings plan is an investment account that is used for savings for college. KC Scholars works with the Missouri MOST and Kansas Learning Quest programs.

### What does a 9<sup>th</sup> grader need to apply?

- Create an account at [kcscholars.org](https://kcscholars.org) beginning January 1, 2022
- Complete the Federal Student Aid Estimator and KC Scholars Eligibility Check
- Complete Applicant Form
- Answer two personal statements prompts.
- Identify one recommender to complete online recommendation form
- Upload high school transcript (can be unofficial and must include first semester of 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Complete the online participation agreement
- Submit all above materials by 11:59 p.m. on February 25, 2022

For a detailed College Savings Match Application Checklist (guide for the application process) visit, <https://kcscholars.org/college-savings-match/>

### What does a 9<sup>th</sup> grader need to complete the Federal Student Aid Estimator?

#### For Student

- Birthday
- Citizenship status
- Marital status
- 2020 adjusted gross income
- Amount of assets, including investments/ real estate, businesses, and/or farms in 2020

#### For Parent(s)

- Age
- Marital status
- Household size
- 2020 adjusted gross income
- Amount of assets, including investments/ real estate, businesses, and/or farms in 2020

The Federal Student Aid Estimator can be completed at <http://kcscholars.org/efc>. Not sure how to complete the Student Aid Estimator to determine income eligibility for KC Scholars? Refer to the EFC Calculator Step-by-Step [Guide](#) or [Video](#) made specifically for purposes of applying to KC Scholars.

**If selected, how and when are applicants notified?**

- Notifications to both recipients and non-recipients will be emailed on April 29, 2022.

**If selected, how does a student open a 529 College Savings Account with KC Scholars?**

- Once selected as a KC Scholar, the student and designated account owner will receive information about and be required to attend a mandatory orientation session in June and will open the account at orientation.

**What is the value of the scholarship?**

- The college savings match award is a 1:1 match on college savings through May 1<sup>st</sup> of their Senior Year, not to exceed \$1,000. Additionally, students can receive up to \$400 for achieving college-ready milestones during high school. This is a one-time award paid directly to the college.

**Does a student have to attend one of the 17 colleges and universities in the KC Scholars Postsecondary Network?**

- Yes, to receive KC Scholars funding a student must attend one of the 17 college and universities in the KC Scholars Postsecondary Network. A student may appeal to go out-of-network during their senior year, but KC Scholars has not previously and does not anticipate allowing many appeals to be granted.

**If a College Savings Match applicant has questions about the application process, where should I direct them?**

- Visit the KC Scholars website at <https://kcscholars.org/college-savings-account-match/>
- KC Scholars is hosting several application workshops throughout the Kansas City area during the application cycles. A list of all application workshops is available at: <https://kcscholars.org/appworkshops/>
- Applicants are also welcomed to email us at [info@kcscholars.org](mailto:info@kcscholars.org) or call us at 816-581-5700 if they have additional questions.

**Where can I access KC Scholars marketing materials?**

- If you would like printed or digital copies of flyers, posters, or information cards, you can contact Cherelle Washington at [cwashington@kcscholars.org](mailto:cwashington@kcscholars.org)

**What is my role in the application process?**

- High school staff, college advisers, and staff at community organizations can serve in a number of roles including:
  - Informing students who may be eligible to apply
  - Serve as a recommender on their application
  - Review an applicant's personal statement prompts
  - Assist an applicant and their family with completing the Federal Student Aid Estimator
  - Hold the applicant accountable and ensure that the application is completed by 11:59 p.m. on February 25, 2022!