SAY YES
TO EDUCATION
CLEVELAND
sayyescleveland.org

Scholarship Guidebook

SCHOLARSHIP HOTLINES
Email: SayYesScholarship@CollegeNowGC.org
Phone: 216.454.5400
What is the Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship?

Say Yes Cleveland scholarships are tuition scholarship funds available to eligible Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) graduates attending a two-year, four-year, or Pell-eligible certificate program at an Ohio public college or university or one of the over one hundred private colleges in the Say Yes National Higher Education Compact. For a list of eligible public and private colleges and universities, please visit: SayYesCleveland.org/scholarships.

- Please be aware that some private institutions have a limited number of scholarships available to CMSD students.

Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in postsecondary education immediately after high school graduation. Eligible students can defer their postsecondary enrollment for up to one year after high school graduation.

Say Yes Cleveland Scholarships are available for up to eight full-time semesters. Students must use those eight fall or spring semesters of eligibility within five years of beginning their postsecondary education. Scholarships are NOT available for students to pursue master’s or other post-undergraduate degrees.
What are the qualifications for the Say Yes scholarship?

To be eligible for a Say Yes scholarship, students must be continuously enrolled in a CMSD or eligible charter high school, and live continuously within the city of Cleveland, or one of the areas served by CMSD*, from 9th grade through graduation.

Students in classes of ’20, ’21, and ’22 must meet the residency and enrollment requirements as of January 18, 2019.

*Students who reside in Bratenahl, Linndale, Newburgh Heights, and parts of Brook Park and Garfield Heights assigned to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are also eligible if they meet enrollment requirements. Any high school student who is considered homeless should connect with their school counselor and Project ACT to ensure scholarship eligibility.

Students must be accepted at an approved institution of higher education.

➔ Please remember you must be enrolled full-time (minimum of 12 credit hours per term) to be eligible for a Say Yes Scholarship.

➔ Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at StudentAid.gov/fafsa. Please meet with your counselor or College Now advisor for help completing the FAFSA. To complete the FAFSA and be eligible for federal aid, a student must be a US citizen, or an eligible documented non-citizen or refugee.
What does the Say Yes Cleveland scholarship cover?

**The Say Yes scholarship can only be used for tuition and mandatory instructional fees.** The scholarship is applied to the cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees **AFTER** any federal or state grants and tuition-specific scholarships are applied. You should confirm with your college whether their institutional scholarships are tuition specific. To complete the FAFSA and be eligible for federal aid, a student must be a US citizen, or an eligible documented non-citizen or refugee.

**The scholarship cannot be used to cover other expenses such as room, board, and books.**

You can use other types of aid to cover these costs, such as institutional scholarships, outside scholarships, or student loans. Please meet with your school counselor or College Now advisor for help finding sources of aid to cover these other costs.

Opportunity Grants are available to Say Yes-eligible students attending an Ohio four-year public institution that has adopted a policy to fully cover cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees for all Pell-eligible students. Students will receive $1,000 opportunity grants to cover additional expenses such as books, transportation, and housing. At this time, The Ohio State University is the only institution that qualifies for this and students must complete their FAFSA by February 1st to be eligible.
How do I apply for the Say Yes scholarship?

In your senior year, create an account and complete the Say Yes Scholarship Certification Form through the scholarship portal at:

⇒ SayYesCleveland.org/for-students/cert

School counselors and College Now advisors will be able to help with this process.

When you complete the certification form, you should list all the colleges you are considering attending. Once you decide which school you will be attending, you must log back in and confirm your enrollment at the school.

If the Say Yes Scholarship Certification system indicates that you are ineligible, you may file an appeal at:

⇒ SayYesCleveland.org/scholarships/scholarship-appeals/
How much will my Say Yes Cleveland scholarship pay for an Ohio public college or university?

If you attend a public college or university, the total amount of the Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship depends on the cost of tuition and fees, the amount of federal and state grants and tuition-specific scholarships provided to you, and your family’s income.

For students whose annual family income is $75,000 or less:

- The scholarship will cover the full difference between the total cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees minus the total amount of federal and state grants and tuition specific scholarships received by the student.

Example: If tuition and fees are $9,500 and you receive $5,000 in the Federal Pell Grant and $2,000 in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and $0 in tuition-specific scholarships, your Say Yes scholarship will cover the difference between the tuition and grants. In this case, it would be $2,500.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SAY YES Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Remember, you still must find other funds to cover any other college expenses, such as room, board, and books.
For students whose annual family income is above $75,000:

- The scholarship will cover up to $5,000 each year (not to exceed total cost of tuition and fees) to help fund the difference between the total cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees minus the total amount of federal and state grants received by the student.

Example: If tuition and fees are $9,500 and you receive $2,000 in the Federal Pell Grant and $0 in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and $0 in tuition specific scholarships, your scholarship will be $5,000.

<table>
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<th>Tuition and fees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAY YES Scholarship</td>
<td>-$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition still owed:</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You are responsible for finding other funds to cover the rest of the owed tuition and any other college expenses, such as room, board, and books.
What will my scholarship cover at a Say Yes National Higher Education Compact private college or university?

If you attend a Say Yes National Higher Education Compact college or university, the total amount of the Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship depends on the cost of tuition and fees, the amount of federal and state grants and tuition-specific scholarships provided to you, and your family’s income.

For students whose annual family income is $75,000 or less:

- The college or university will provide a scholarship that will cover the full difference between the total cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees minus the total amount of federal and state grants and tuition-specific scholarships received by the student.

Example: If tuition and fees are $25,000 and you receive $5,000 in the Federal Pell Grant and $2,000 in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and $0 in tuition specific scholarships, your scholarship will be the difference between the tuition and grants. In this case, it would be $18,000.

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- Please note that in this scenario your scholarship will come from the college or university and not Say Yes.
- Remember, you still must find other funds to cover any other college expenses, such as room, board, and books.
For students whose annual family income is above $75,000:

- The scholarship will cover $5,000 each year to help fund the difference between the total cost of tuition and mandatory instructional fees minus the total amount of federal and state grants received by the student.

Example: If tuition and fees are $25,000 and you receive $2,000 in the Federal Pell Grant and $0 in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and $0 in tuition specific scholarships, your scholarship will be $5,000.

- Tuition and fees: $25,000
- Pell Grant: -$2,000
- SAY YES Scholarship -$5,000
- Tuition still owed: $18,000

- You are responsible for finding other funds to cover the rest of the owed tuition and any other college expenses, such as room, board, and books.
To remain eligible, students must:

- Be enrolled full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester)
- Meet the same Satisfactory Academic Progress as required by federal guidelines
- Complete a new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually
- Meet the participation requirements for the College Now Mentoring Program
All Say Yes scholarship students will be assigned a mentor through College Now beginning the fall after their high school graduation. Students must continue working with an assigned mentor throughout their postsecondary education experiences. Mentors are volunteers from the Greater Cleveland area who hold college degrees and who can answer questions, offer support, and give advice to students. Matches are based on personal characteristics, career, and academic interests. Once matched, mentors and students communicate online twice a month and meet in person throughout students’ college careers.

What do students gain from the program?
• Individualized support from their mentor throughout college
• Networking opportunities with over 2,000 other students and professionals in the community
• Professional development and career advice
• Support from College Now staff during college

Say Yes scholars also must complete mentoring orientation and their online mentee profile form before their high school graduation: Go to CollegeNowGC.org/mentor, click “Join” then “Mentee”. Answer the questions to complete your profile.

Participation in the College Now Mentoring Program is a requirement for the Say Yes scholarship. Failure to meet the mentoring program requirements will result in the loss of the Say Yes Scholarship.
Who should I contact with any questions?

Contact the Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship Hotline, which is administered by College Now Greater Cleveland.

➔ Email: SayYesScholarship@CollegeNowGC.org

➔ Phone: 216.454.5400