

Leg Up Scholarship

2026 - 2027 Scholarship Guidelines

ABOUT

The Leg Up Scholarship is a scholarship program that aims to support students from Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Lynn or Medford Massachusetts to excel in college and launch their careers. It is a unique scholarship program that provides flexible and individualized financial and social support to students to help them maximize their academic and social experiences in college and to achieve their long-term goals. Leg Up Scholars graduate from college prepared to take on life's challenges and opportunities and do so with limited to no student debt. The program is funded by Doreen Portnoy Bilezikian, born in Chelsea MA, and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative.

THE AWARD

The Leg Up Scholarship program is not a typical scholarship - **we do not give tuition assistance**, but we **do** provide the following:

- Funding for typical expenses at college (money for books and supplies, travel to and from college, a laptop computer)
- Funding to make the college experience great (study abroad, internships, academic support, and enrichment)
- Mentoring support
- Back-end "scholarship" upon graduation (loan repayment of up to \$20,000) for students who meet the program requirements through graduation

The Leg Up Scholarship is an annual award that may be renewed for four years. We are committed to helping students graduate in 4 years and to maximize their college experience by supporting their personal and career goals. In return we expect students to:

- Work hard and dream big
- Maintain excellent grades
- Work during the summer to advance career development
- Nurture and support their fellow scholars

ELIGIBILITY

Residency	U.S. citizens or U.S. Resident Permanent resident of Chelsea, East Boston, Medford, Lynn or Revere Massachusetts
Financial Circumstances	Excellent financial aid award package at college/university As a general guideline, eligible students should have no more than approximately \$5,000 in loans per year or \$20,000 over their college career
Academic	Senior or recent high school graduate who will be enrolling as a first-year student in a competitive four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university full-time in 2026-27 Superior academic record in high school, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 (based upon a max 4.0 or equivalent)
Personal	Involved in a balance of community, school, and work activities Motivated to excel in college Students who will not be receiving significant financial and mentoring supports from other programs (e.g. Posse, Thrive Scholars, Gates, Janey)

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Complete applications are **due Friday, May 15, 2026 by 5PM**. Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed. Please follow instructions carefully.

You can access the application here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=tpisolarship>

Once you create an account and log in, there should be an opportunity to enter an **Access Code** at the top of the page. Please enter: **LEGUP**

HOW TO APPLY

1. **Review Eligibility:** Review these guidelines for eligibility requirements.
2. **Review Application:** A PDF of the application is available for download [here](#).
3. **Required Documents:** Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application.
4. **Recommendation:** Recommender must upload a letter of recommendation to the student's online application. Instructions are included in the application.
5. **Questions:** Please contact us at legupscholars@tpi.org with any questions.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. **Application Submitted Online**
2. **Extracurricular Information or Resume**
3. **Essay** – A writing sample that reflects the student's personal history and aspirations for the future (e.g. college application essays or personal statement)
4. **Letter of Recommendation** (from a teacher, guidance counselor, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows the student well)
5. **High School Transcript**
6. **College Acceptance Letter**
7. **Financial Aid Award Letter**
8. **FAFSA Submission Summary**

TIMELINE

- January 30, 2026: Application opens
- May 15, 2026 by 5PM: Application deadline
- By June 2026: Selected applicants will be invited for interviews
- June 2026: Scholarship recipients will be announced by the end of the month

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Please contact us at legupscholars@tpi.org