



Equality in Education

2026 Scholarship Application

This document is the template for our digital scholarship application and provided as a reference document. Please do not use this form for your application.

Important Dates:

- Application period opens on September 15, 2025.
- Application period closes on April 1, 2026.
- Applications or supplemental materials received after April 1, 2026 shall not be accepted.
- Awardees and applicants shall be notified by May 1, 2026.

Summary: The Equality Loudoun Scholarship is an opportunity to recognize and support the historically marginalized members of the LGBTQ+ community in accessing higher education to achieve their goals. As the granters of this scholarship, Equality Loudoun believes that higher education benefits society by lifting up a diverse and inclusive group of educated voices to become 21st century leaders.

Purpose: This scholarship is intended to identify a candidate that best embodies Equality Loudoun's core mission of serving those in need by facilitating education, fostering inclusion, and creating community for the LGBTQ+ community.

Disbursement: In 2026, we have determined that a single \$5,000 scholarship shall be awarded.

Disclaimer: Equality Loudoun reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions listed at any time, without notice.

Selection Criteria: The selection shall be based upon a numerical scoring of applicant responses, as determined by our Selection Committee. To ensure a fair selection process, our Committee is not provided with names, school, or other identifying information that could otherwise introduce bias. Numerical scoring is out of 100 and based on four parts :

- **Part A- Application:** Scored based on completeness, and accuracy. (worth 5 points).
- **Part B- Establishing Criteria:** Scored based on financial need (15 points), extracurriculars (5 points), educational plans (5 points), and intersectional criteria (5 points)
- **Part C- Essay:** The prompt for the 2026 essay (50 points) is "**How does your experience and goals help you in planning to work towards a more equitable world for the LGBTQ+ community?**" Essays should be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words. Essays should not include applicant's name, school, or other identifying information.
- **Part D- Letter of Recommendation:** Demonstrate applicant's general academic and extracurricular performance, community involvement, commitment to ideals of equality, and character (15 points). Letter may be submitted by a teacher, mentor, or community stakeholder. Applicant shall have letters emailed to contact@eqloco.com.

Part A- Application

- **Signature**
 - Please enter your name below as a digital acknowledgement and signature of this application.
 - By signing this application, I agree that all information is true to the best of my knowledge and ability and that I agree to the terms and conditions as listed. I understand and agree that the terms and conditions may change at any time, with or without notice, before or after my submission. Any falsification on this submission shall result in disqualification. In the event you are not selected as a scholarship recipient, you agree to pursue no recourse.

- **Awarding Requirement**

- If you are selected as the recipient, you must provide the information for your educational vendor (college, trade school, etc.) directly no later than September 1. This includes the name of the school, the mailing address where a check should be sent, your registered name, and your student identification number (of your college, trade school, etc. – not your high school). Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of your award.
Do you agree to these terms?

- **Awarding Requirement**

- Applicants must be:
 - In your last two years at a private, public, or homeschooling program based in Loudoun County or in your first two years of higher education with a residential address in Loudoun County.
 - 18 years or older or applying with permission of your parent(s) or guardian(s).
 - A member of the LGBTQ+ community or the child of an LGBTQ+ individual.
 - Seeking to continue education through vocational training, secondary education, formal college, and/or other certification program.
 - Do you confirm that you are eligible under these terms for this scholarship?

- **Name**

- Please enter the name you are comfortable using. We value your privacy and will not share or publicize your information without your prior written consent. For the purposes of this application, your name will only be available to our Education Director, for review purposes, and Treasurer, for the issuance of your award if selected.
- If you are selected, we will ask for the name you are registered under for your continuing education in order to send your scholarship to the educational venue of your choice.

- **Email**
 - DO NOT use a current school email. If selected, we will need to email after the end of the current school year to get the financial information to award to your educational vendor.
 - **Phone Number**
 - We will only use this if you are selected and have not responded via email.
 - **Graduation Year**
 - Please list the year you graduated or are scheduled to graduate from high school or its equivalent.
 - **Current School or Occupation**
 - [Blank]
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Part B – Establishment Criteria

- **Do any of the following apply to you?**
 - (This response is worth 5 points.)
 - First or second generation immigrant
 - Member of the BIPOC community
 - Adopted or live(d) in foster care
 - Unhoused or housing insecure
 - Passed the GED or TASC
 - Currently transitioning
 - None of these
- **Plans for Scholarship**
 - Please provide a brief description of the plans for your scholarship, if selected, to include the school or educational venue, field of study, and occupation you hope to pursue (1-2 sentences). This response is worth 5 points.
- **Extracurriculars**
 - Please provide a brief description on any community service, clubs, sports, awards, or other notable service you have performed in the last 4 years. This response is worth 5 points.
- **Financial Need**

- Please provide a brief description that speaks to your financial need, the limitations you have in accessing higher education, and the benefits receiving this scholarship will make. This response is worth 15 points.
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Part C- Essay

- The prompt for the 2025 essay is "How does your experience and goals help you in planning to work towards a more equitable world for the LGBTQ+ community?"
 - **Essay Submission**
 - Please copy and paste your essay in full below. Your essay will be formatted to a common text.
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Part D - Letter of Recommendation

- Letters of Recommendation should demonstrate applicant's general academic and extracurricular performance, community involvement, commitment to ideals of equality, and character.
- This is worth 15 points.
- Letters may be submitted by a teacher, mentor, or community stakeholder. Applicants shall have letters emailed to contact@eqloco.com - must be received by April 1, 2026.
- We will only notify applicants if a letter has not been received by March 15.
- Do you agree to have a Letter of Recommendation emailed to us at contact@eqloco.com by April 1, 2026?