

2024 Scholarship Application Form and Information



Michaels

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Dear Students, Parents, and Friends of Michaels:

All high school seniors and graduates living in sites managed by Michaels or its affiliates are invited by the Board of Directors of The Michaels Educational Foundation to apply for scholarship grants for the 2024-2025 academic year, totaling at least \$750,000 to be awarded in June, 2024.

The Foundation, in its thirty-fourth year, is issuing this invitation to distinguished residents who are pursuing some form of higher education at a college, trade/professional school, or institute. The Michaels Educational Foundation is a privately funded, non-profit educational organization that was created in February, 1991, expressly to assist high school graduates living in Michaels properties throughout the nation. In its first thirty-three years, the Foundation awarded in excess of \$13,750,000 to worthy students through-out the country. This is one of the few foundations of its kind in the nation.

We encourage the financial support of corporations, companies, families, private trusts, and individuals wishing to join us in this effort to honor and assist those who are the future of the Michaels communities.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any phase of the Foundation's work to help students living in Michaels sites throughout the nation.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Levitt
Founder & Chairman
Michaels

Patricia Schwartz
Executive Director
Better Tomorrows

If you are the child of an employee, do **NOT** complete this application. The Michaels Employees Scholarship Program (MESP) applications will be available March 8, 2024.

Scholarship Information For Applicants And Parents

ELIGIBILITY

All high school students who plan to begin post-secondary studies at colleges or trade/professional schools are eligible for these grants provided they reside on a site which is professionally managed by Michaels or its affiliates. The applicant/family must be in good standing with the rules and regulations of HUD and Michaels.

High school graduates residing at sites managed by Michaels or its affiliates who are currently enrolled in college undergraduate programs or trade/professional school and plan to return to post-secondary studies for the 2024-25 school year are also eligible, and may apply for a Michaels grant. A matriculated boarding student may apply provided their primary residence is with a parent/guardian residing on a site which is professionally managed by Michaels or its affiliates, (applicant/recipient must be named on all applicable lease documents). **Applications for graduate level programs will not be accepted.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria used to select grant recipients includes academic performance, character, and proficiency, or potential proficiency in a chosen field of study. Each of these criteria carries equal weight in determining who will receive grants. Academic performance is determined by evaluating high school or college grade transcripts released to the Foundation by the student.

All high school students applying must possess a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent. All matriculated college students applying must possess a minimum of a 2.3 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent. College students applying for grants who have attained sufficient credits at their institution of higher learning to be considered as a junior, must specify a declared major. The Foundation values student efforts in working toward a degree.

Character will be evaluated through examination of an essay written by the student and a reference provided by an individual the applicant selects. As an alternative to the essay, musical and/or dramatic presentations must be provided. These presentations may not exceed five minutes. The Foundation would prefer these presentations on videotape or DVD. Submission of a portfolio (not to exceed 10 pieces on compact disc or digital printouts of artistic work or composition is also a suitable alternative to the essay. A brief written description including the title(s) of your work, performance or musical composition must also be provided. Please do not submit original art work. Artistic submissions will not be returned. **Students submitting a creative alternative must also provide a statement explaining how the alternative is related to their major course of study.**

DETERMINATION OF FINANCIAL NEED

Since the parent, guardian or students residing at Michaels or its affiliate sites must provide a yearly updated financial statement demonstrating their eligibility for continued residency at a site managed by Michaels or its affiliates, this form will be utilized to determine financial need. Gross income of the household of the applicant must fall within the range of Section Eight (8) Income Limits or within the range of affordable housing limits of the county in which the applicant resides. These requirements are not applicable to residents living in military housing managed by Michaels.

DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS

Each award will represent a scholarship grant provided to the selected students. These grants should not be mistaken in any way for student loans. While a high school student may apply for consideration for a grant prior to being accepted at a college or trade/professional school, they must provide documentation in the form of an admissions acceptance letter to the Foundation before the grant will be finalized. The exact number of awards and the total amount of money to be awarded in 2024 will be determined during the selection process, in the sole discretion of the Foundation.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

All grants are made payable to the colleges or other post-secondary institutions where the recipients will attend during the 2024-25 school year. As was previously mentioned, the student must provide the Foundation a copy of an admissions acceptance letter to an accredited school. It is the intent of The Michaels Educational Foundation that the full amount of these grants will be applied toward the recipient's school expenses. We suggest that the recipient contact The Michaels Educational Foundation before accepting any scholarship from the Foundation, if there is any doubt about the continuance of other financial aid, especially need-based scholarships.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There are four essential parts of this application, and all must be received in order for The Michaels Educational Foundation to consider an application.

The deadline for completed applications is **April 15, 2024**. Please mail Parts I, II, III, and IV (listed below) to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 90708, Camden, NJ 08101.

- I. The completed Application Form that contains basic information about the applicant, as well as, the applicant's and parent/guardian statement with signatures.
- II. An official grade transcript that shows the courses you have taken and the grades awarded through the fall semester of the 2023-2024 school year. These transcripts will allow us to evaluate academic performance. College students should request their transcripts no later than March 6, 2024.
- III. Utilize the attached reference form to secure a reference. This reference should come from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis. The Michaels Educational Foundation Scholarship Program assumes that recommendations from teachers, guidance counselors, professors, principals, deans, and/or other school administrators are better indications of a student's future performance in school than personal recommendations. **AS A RESULT, THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD COME FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED TYPE INDIVIDUALS. REFERENCES FROM RELATIVES AND PERSONAL REFERENCES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

IV. **Part A - REQUIRED ESSAY:**

Failure to complete the REQUIRED essay portion of the application will DISQUALIFY your eligibility to receive a scholarship award.

We are thinking about your future-show us that you have thought about it too!

The Michaels Education Foundation is making an investment in YOU. As such, the selection committee would like to gain insight into your story, your motivations and the next steps toward your future.

In an essay of approximately 400 words (typed or neatly printed), please explain specifically:

- ◆ **Your focus:** What will be your major, trade profession or field of study? Why did you choose it?
- ◆ **Your goal:** What will be your objective immediately upon graduation from your program?
- ◆ **Your plan:** What actions will you take to achieve that goal or employment?

Note:

Creative alternatives to the essay are also acceptable. Musical and/or dramatic presentations may be provided. This presentation should be five minutes or less in length, preferably submitted on video tape or DVD. Submission of a portfolio or artistic work, not to exceed 10 pieces, is also a suitable alternative to the essay. Please do not submit original art work. Artistic submissions will not be returned. A brief written description including the title(s) of your art work, performance or musical composition must also be provided. **Students submitting a creative alternative must also provide a statement explaining how the alternative is related to their major course of study.**

Part B - CONDITIONAL ESSAY:

If you meet the criteria below, this is also a required essay for you.

If your transcript reflects any "D" or "F" grades or withdrawals from a class at any time, provide an essay of approximately 400 words (typed or neatly printed) to explain specifically:

- ◆ What happened?
- ◆ What did you learn from it?
- ◆ What has changed or what will you do differently this time?

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The selection committee will meet during the month of May. All applicants will be notified by June 12, 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- February 5, 2024** Application forms available at www.tmo.com/scholars
- March 6, 2024** Suggested deadline for college students to request grade transcripts from their registrars in order to assure that part of the application will be received by the Foundation prior to April 15, 2024.
- April 15, 2024** **FINAL DEADLINE** for all parts of the application for a 2024 The Michaels Educational Foundation Grant. Mail the application form, references, essay and grade transcripts to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 90708, Camden, NJ 08101.
- June 12, 2024** All applicants notified of the outcome status of their application.
- June 24, 2024** Acceptance forms must be returned by this date if grant recipients wish to accept the offer of a scholarship. Grants not accepted by this date will be awarded to other applicants.
- July 31, 2024** Scholarship checks, made payable to post-secondary institutions, will be mailed via U.S. mail directly to the post-secondary institution on behalf of the scholarship recipient to help pay for the student's 2024-25 school year costs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS • THE MICHAELS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

President - Michael J. Levitt

Vice President - E. James Henderson, Jr. • *Vice President* - Patricia Levitt

Secretary/Treasurer - Elaine Leonardi



Michaels

EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 90708 · Camden, NJ · 08101



THE MICHAELS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Application Deadline is April 15, 2024

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name of Applicant _____
(Last Name, First Name and Middle Initial)

Name of Apartment Community
or Military Base where you reside _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City / State / Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Last 4 of Social Security #: XXX-XX- _____

Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

Head of Household _____
(Last Name, First Name)

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

School Name where you will be attending _____
(Name of College, University, or Trade School)

Student ID # _____ FR - Soph - JR - SR - Other in Fall 2024 _____

Major _____ Credits earned as of April 1, 2024 _____

Minor _____ Credits enrolled Fall 2024 _____

Certification _____ Credits required to complete program _____

Other _____ Expected Graduation Date _____

Degrees currently held (excluding high school) _____

If you are an incoming Freshman and your school requires SAT or ACT scores, you must provide them:

SAT - Reading & Writing _____

SAT - Math _____

ACT Score _____

FINANCIAL AID

List all scholarships, work study grants, student loans and any other form of financial aid you have or will receive for the 2024-2025 school year as of April 1, 2024:

Source of Funding	Effective Date	GPA or other requirement?	2024 FAFSA EFC SCORE	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

REFERENCE LETTER

Using the attached form, please provide a reference from a person who has first-hand knowledge of your functioning as a student on a regular basis. References should come from teachers, guidance counselors, principals, deans and other school administrators.
PERSONAL REFERENCES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

If you are the child of an employee, do **NOT** complete this application. The Michaels Employees Scholarship Program (MESP) applications will be available March 8, 2024.

THE MICHAELS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Application Deadline is April 15, 2024

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Michaels and its affiliates believe in giving back to the communities which it serves. The Foundation is but one manifestation of this philosophy. Just as the Foundation provides scholarships to worthy students as a portion of its commitment to assist the community, the Foundation values community service from students. If you have at any time over the last three years, been of service to the apartment community in which you live, please include relevant information regarding this in your essay. If you have not provided previous service, would you be willing to provide service over the course of the next year to The Michaels community in which you reside. YES NO

Know that if you are selected, and have indicated a willingness to serve, the Foundation will try to establish a reasonable commitment for community service for you between June, 2024, and June, 2025.

APPLICANT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT

We have read the instruction sheet and this application form and wish to apply for a Michaels Educational Foundation Scholarship. We agree to comply with all procedures outlined in the application information and we release to The Michaels Educational Foundation, the applicant's academic records.

PERMISSION TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO DONORS

The Michaels Educational Foundation depends on the generosity of donors to fund our scholarship program. Please check here if you would be willing to share your story, your progress, and your successes with one or more of our donors. YES NO

PERMISSION TO RELEASE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As parent/guardian of _____ I hereby release all necessary financial information on file to The Michaels Educational Foundation for the purpose of determining financial need.

PERMISSION TO PUBLICIZE NAME AND PHOTOGRAPH

If I am awarded a scholarship, I give my permission to use my name and/or photograph in publicity releases related to The Michaels Educational Foundation.

PRIVACY POLICY

I further agree that, if I am selected as a scholarship recipient, any information provided by me to the Foundation in connection with this application may be used by the Foundation in promoting its purposes.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature
(only required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Date

The Michaels Educational Foundation
Scholarship Application
 Personal Character Reference Form

Name of Applicant: _____

Address of Applicant: _____

Name of Person Providing Referral: _____

Address of Person Providing Referral: _____

Telephone Number of Person Providing Referral: _____

Relationship of person providing referral on behalf of the applicant (Example: Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Professor...) _____

Please circle the most appropriate response for the applicant you are referring and attach a narrative on your letterhead stationary. Please consider each item shown below independently from the others listed.

	Poor		Good		Outstanding
Dependability	X	X	X	X	X
Honesty	X	X	X	X	X
Perseverance	X	X	X	X	X
Cognitive Aptitude	X	X	X	X	X
Conscientiousness	X	X	X	X	X
Concern for Others	X	X	X	X	X
Leadership	X	X	X	X	X

I attest that the aforementioned reference of _____
 is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am not a blood relative of this applicant.

 Signature

 Date

Return this form to the applicant for submission prior to **April 15, 2024**, or mail directly to Dr. Bruce W. Johnson, The Michaels Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 90708, Camden, NJ 08101.

Please provide a brief narrative of your thoughts regarding the applicant's personal character. Be sure to mention how you came to know the applicant and how long you have been acquainted with the individual. Other information helpful to the Selection Committee would include your perception of the applicant as a student, your belief in the applicant's ability to successfully pursue a college degree, and any unique characteristics the individual may possess.