



The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey

2024 Connections for the Future Scholarship

Up to \$1,000 for a **graduating public school senior with disabilities** from Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex, Morris, Somerset, Union, Warren or Sussex County.

Please read the following information before completing your application.

Background: The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey is a nonprofit group of over 40 state-approved private special education schools in Northern and Central New Jersey whose members are committed to great outcomes for students with special needs.

The Alliance supports and empowers educators and advocates who serve students with special needs through education, information support and advocacy. To further the mission of the Alliance, we have established the ***Connections for the Future Scholarship***.

The goal of the ***Connections for the Future Scholarship*** is to provide financial support and recognition of students with disabilities graduating from a **PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM** as they pursue post-secondary training, education or other opportunities.

The scholarship encourages continuing education and training, increased independence and goal setting, and promotes community integration and the use of local resources and supports.

The scholarship will:

- Provide financial support to PUBLIC SCHOOL graduates with disabilities (IEP or 504) so that they may pursue post-secondary education, training, and other life-enhancing opportunities. **STUDENTS DO NOT NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE.**
- Encourage students with disabilities and their families to identify community-based supports to help foster the success of the student beyond graduation.
- Encourage goal setting and planning for the future.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2024

Eligibility Criteria

1. The student must be currently enrolled in a public high school or charter school in Bergen, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Union, Sussex, Somerset, or Warren counties, and be scheduled to graduate in 2024.
2. The student must be receiving special education and/or related services through an IEP or 504 plan in ANY placement.
3. The student (or designee) must demonstrate that the funds will be used to pursue post-secondary education, internships, or apprenticeship opportunities, including but not limited to special training programs for the pursuit of vocational opportunities, or continuing education. Examples of such programs are art, recreation, film or music programs, 2- or 4-year college courses, trade and vocational schools, physical education programs, or adult day programs. Funds *may* be used to pay for related transportation costs.
4. If applicable, the student (or designee) must demonstrate acceptance into a post-secondary program or a commitment for participation in an internship, externship or mentor arrangement.
5. The student (or designee) must demonstrate that consideration was given to any disability-related accommodations, supports or services needed to be successful in the pursuit of his/her post-secondary goal, and describe how those support needs will be met.
6. The student must submit ONE letter of recommendation from a *guidance counselor, teacher or principal*.

Distribution and Use of Funds

A maximum of 3 scholarships will be awarded, at least one in the amount of up to \$1,000 per student. Funds can be used to support the student's post-secondary goals as they relate to education, training or vocational opportunities.

Appropriate use of scholarship funds includes but is not limited to:

- Tuition or coursework payments
- Transportation costs (where none is otherwise available)
- Tutoring services (when appropriate)
- Stipends for unpaid internships
- Assistive technology

NOTE: Funds cannot be used to pay for services or supports that otherwise would be provided at no cost, or to release any individual, company (public or private), state agency or organization from fiscal responsibility to provide accommodations or supports otherwise required by law.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a committee that may be comprised of:

- Ideally, one representative from each Alliance region.
- An Alliance board member serving as a non-voting facilitator.

Applications will be reviewed for:

- Completeness
- Eligibility criteria
- Appropriate use of funds
- Compatibility with the goals of the scholarship

It is important that we can read all applications; preference shall be given to typed submissions.

Consideration will be given to:

- Nature of student challenges and steps to overcome those challenges.
- Student achievements and accomplishments.
- Student goals and the appropriateness of post-secondary program in meeting those goals.

(Application begins on the following page)

2024 Alliance Scholarship: *Connections for the Future*
APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2024

Sponsored by the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey

For Internal Use Only

Reviewer Initials _____

Internal Review _____

Reviewer Score _____

Total Score _____

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Current School & County: _____

Expected year of graduation: _____

Name of Person Completing this Application: _____
(If different from applicant)

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Counselor or Guidance Officer: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Application Continues)

I plan to go on to:

- Higher education (2- or 4-year program)
- Trade or vocational school
- Internship or apprenticeship opportunity
- A volunteer opportunity
- Start my own business
- Art, recreation, film, music, physical education program
- Adult day program/ DDD Supports/ DVRS Supports
- Other _____

I will use scholarship funds to pay for:

- Tuition or coursework payments
- Transportation costs (where none is otherwise available)
- Tutoring services (when appropriate)
- Stipends for unpaid internships
- Assistive technology
- Other _____

The following section may be completed by the individual or his/her designee.

PLEASE PROVIDE FULL PARAGRAPHS OF A FEW SENTENCES OR MORE

explaining in detail your earlier successes, plans, and services you intend to use in order to reach your goals in the following questions.

I have had accomplishments and successes, both in and out of school. Some of them are:

(Application Continues)

When I leave school, I plan to:

*Please NOTE when answering the following question: Scholarship funds **cannot** be used to pay for services or supports that otherwise would be provided at no cost, or to release any individual, company (public or private), state agency or organization from fiscal responsibility to provide accommodations or supports otherwise required by law.*

I plan to use these support services in order to be successful in meeting my goals:

(Application Continues)

Please complete the Application Checklist and Signature on the following page.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST & SIGNATURE

- [] I am currently enrolled in a **public** high school or **charter school** in Bergen, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Union, Sussex, Somerset, or Warren counties.
- [] I am scheduled to graduate and accept a diploma in 2024.
- [] I have been receiving special education services through an IEP or 504 plan.
- [] I have described my accomplishments, my goals, and my needs for support.
- [] I have provided proof of acceptance in a post-secondary program **or** a letter of commitment for participation in an internship/mentor arrangement (*if applicable*).
- [] I have enclosed a letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor, teacher or principal, with specific reference to my disability.
- [] My application reflects appropriate use of scholarship funds.
- [] If selected, I (or parent/guardian) **consent** to use of my picture and/or a recording of the presentation of my award, including my full name and basic information about my post-secondary goal, in press releases, on social media, on the Alliance website and in Alliance newsletters.

(Applicant or Parent/Guardian)

Date

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2024

Submit Your Application by mail:

Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey
170 Changebridge Road C5-3 • Montville, NJ 07045

Submit Your Application by Email:

outreach@specialeducationalliancenj.org

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTS and SUPPORTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TOGETHER IN ONE EMAIL, subject line: STUDENT LAST NAME-Connections Scholarship.

If submitting by mail, please use A SINGLE ENVELOPE.