

Welcome to the Letters from Katrina Endowment. Please use the contact form on this web site to communicate with the Katrina Endowment office.

PROGRAM TITLE	The Katrina Endowment ... for children of South Mississippi.																												
INTENT	To provide some graduates of Hancock and Harrison County schools with the opportunity to attend post – secondary education with up to a 100% tuition scholarship.																												
ELIGIBILITY	All students who graduate from specific Hancock and Harrison County schools, and have been residents four years or more. (Enrollment and residency must be continuous.)																												
QUALIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A graduate of Hancock or Harrison County Public High school.(Must have attended North Bay, Gulfview/ Murphy or, Pass/Delisle Elementary Schools) 2. Admitted to and enrolled at any public State of Mississippi University or Community College. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Making regular progress toward a degree or certification. b. Must maintain a 2.0 grade point average at the post-secondary institution. If the GPA drops below 2.0 a student may be reinstated if he/she is able to bring their GPA back to at least a 2.0 c. Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours. 																												
TERMS OF SCHOLARSHIP	Four years successfully completing at least 12 hours each semester. This scholarship program provides up to four (4) years of tuition and mandatory fees for post-secondary education. (per the scale below)																												
ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS	Any public State of Mississippi University or Community College. (see list on this web site)																												
EXTENT OF BENEFITS	<p>The tuition benefit will be graduated on the basis of length of attendance in the Hancock or Harrison Public School system.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Length of Attendance Benefit</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>K-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">100%</td></tr> <tr><td>1-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">95%</td></tr> <tr><td>2-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">95%</td></tr> <tr><td>3-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">95%</td></tr> <tr><td>4-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">90%</td></tr> <tr><td>5-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">85%</td></tr> <tr><td>6-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">80%</td></tr> <tr><td>7-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">75%</td></tr> <tr><td>8-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">70%</td></tr> <tr><td>9-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">65%</td></tr> <tr><td>10-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">None</td></tr> <tr><td>11-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">None</td></tr> <tr><td>12-12</td><td style="text-align: right;">None</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Length of Attendance Benefit</u>		K-12	100%	1-12	95%	2-12	95%	3-12	95%	4-12	90%	5-12	85%	6-12	80%	7-12	75%	8-12	70%	9-12	65%	10-12	None	11-12	None	12-12	None
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The amount of scholarships available, and the dollar amount of each scholarship, is contingent on this project building a substantial endowment through book sales and private donations.

If book sales and private contributions to the endowment **DO NOT** generate the funds necessary to create scholarship opportunities - all money will be donated evenly to North Bay, Gulfview/ Murphy and Pass /Delisle Elementary schools for general school/educational use.

Questions and Answers	
<p>Why offer this program to the graduates of Hancock County Public Schools?</p>	<p>For the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education is an important key to financial well being. 2. Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, this scholarship provides some students in Hancock and Harrison County a future opportunity for secondary education. 3. It allows Hancock and Harrison County to differentiate itself from other public and private school systems. 4. It provides a real meaningful and tangible opportunity for all students. 5. The Katrina Endowment will create opportunities for individuals who attend Hancock and Harrison County Public Schools and their current and future families. It follows – and studies have shown – that there is a strong correlation between overall academic achievement and a community’s economic vitality and quality of life.
<p>Why is the benefit graduated on a sliding scale?</p>	<p>The program is designed to provide maximum benefit to long-term attendees. A desired outcome of the program will be to encourage families to make early decisions to enroll their students in Hancock and Harrison County Public Schools, and to maintain that enrollment through graduation.</p>
<p>How is attendance calculated if the student leaves the HCS system and then later returns?</p>	<p>From the date of most recent enrollment.</p>
<p>What is the application process?</p>	<p>2005-06 graduates are eligible. Students must apply during their senior year. Applications are available from the high school guidance offices or the Katrina Endowment office.</p>
<p>How will this award work with other post-secondary financial opportunities?</p>	<p>This scholarship program provides up to four (4) years of tuition and mandatory fees for post-secondary education. The program staff will work closely with other scholarship and award grantors so as to provide the maximum financial benefit for each eligible student.</p>

What are the eligible universities and/or colleges?	Every state supported public university and /or community college in the State of Mississippi. (See the links on this page.)
Are vocational schools eligible?	All certification or degree programs in the trades at state supported community colleges are qualified. Private apprentice programs are not eligible.
Can the scholarship be transferred to a private college or out-of-state institution, out-of-state community college, or out-of-state vocational training program?	No
Are there additional requirements that must be met after the initial award?	Yes. Applicants must demonstrate, after the first semester and all following semesters, the following: 1. They are enrolled as a student in good standing. 2. They have successfully completed 12 credit hours in the prior semester (as defined by the applicable post-secondary institution's criteria.) 3. They have a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher.
What happens if the student fails to meet the requirements? Is the scholarship no longer available?	The scholarship can be reinstated if the student returns to good standing with a 2.0 G.P.A. or higher. If a student's G.P.A. falls below a 2.0, then the student would not receive the scholarship the next semester. If the student regains a 2.0 G.P.A., then the scholarship would be reinstated prospectively. The scholarship is only available for four (4) years following the student's graduation from Hancock or Harrison County unless interrupted by military service.
If the award is not needed due to other academic scholarships, can the award be applied to room and board fees?	No
Will students who live in a neighboring district <i>and</i> apply to a Hancock County school under the Schools of Choice Agreement be eligible for this award?	No
Will students who attend HCS and transfer out of the system prior to graduation	No

be eligible?	
Are application fees covered?	No – However, many institutions will waive the application fee if it is requested because of financial hardship. There are also organizations in the Gulfport community who are setting up funds to assist students who are unable to pay this fee.
Are deposits required to secure enrollment covered?	Deposits will not be paid separately. Most college and universities want the student to pay cash deposits in order to assure that they are serious about attending their institution. If there are excess funds when the Promise pays the school will refund the excess at that time.
How will funds be disbursed?	Funds will be paid directly to the educational institution.
Are students who graduate early or later than their class eligible?	All students who have been continuously enrolled and a HCS resident since the beginning of the 9 th grade year and completed grades 9 thru 12 are eligible.
Does the scholarship have to be used immediately following graduation?	No
If graduate school enrollment starts prior to the end of the 4 year deadline is it covered?	No
Is a new application required every semester / year?	No, but confirmation of academic status, GPA, and full time status from the previous semester will be required. A bill for the current semester will also be required. The student is responsible for providing this information.