



**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE ★ COLLEGE READINESS ★ LIFELONG MENTORING**

## **What is HFS Chicago Scholars?**

HFS Chicago Scholars helps economically disadvantaged Chicago high school students flourish in and out of the classroom by providing educational enrichment through our lifelong mentoring, college readiness and academic excellence programs, as well as providing financial assistance to attend top Chicago-area schools.

We provide the following to our scholars:

- Financial assistance to attend top Chicago private high schools
- Academic Directors dedicated to each high school class and one-on-one mentors
- Four-year written commitment specifying performance expectations
- College visits, selection, and admissions support

Our scholars respond to the opportunity by working hard to achieve success and unlock their long-term potential. Their achievements are astounding:

- On average, over 90% of our scholars make the honor roll of the top schools in the city.
- Our scholars are school leaders, serving as class officers, team captains and club presidents, and annually give over 4,000 hours to community service
- 100% of our graduates are accepted to and attend top colleges and universities, such as Harvard, Princeton, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, Loyola University, University of Michigan, Indiana University, Drake University, Loras College, and the University of Notre Dame.
- Our high school graduates include three valedictorians and one salutatorian of four of the city's top schools.

## **Who is eligible to apply for HFS Chicago Scholars?**

Eighth grade students who want to attend a private high school that requires tuition and who meet the required criteria listed below are encouraged to apply for an HFS Chicago Scholarship. Candidates are considered holistically, so it may not be necessary to exhibit all five elements listed.

- Grade Point Average of 3.0 or Above (B average or above for 7th and 8th grades)
- Average to Above Average standardized test scores (from 7th grade)
- Strong attendance and behavior record in 7th and 8th grades
- Evidence of leadership potential
- Evidence of positive academic work ethic
- Demonstration of financial need
- Income level of 55k and under - Provide most recent tax return
- Large families with higher incomes are considered



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### How does a student apply?

- You can print this [informational flyer](#) for students and families or .
- Complete the online application: <https://bit.ly/HFS2025>
  - MAIL\* or UPLOAD\*\* supporting documents:
    - Four handwritten essays (must print) - [Class of 2025 Applicant Essay Questions](#)
    - Income verification (tax return, SSI, etc.)
    - Final 7th grade report card
    - Current 8th grade report card
    - 7th grade standardized test scores

\*Mailed documents should be included in one large envelope  
\*\*Upload at the end of the online application
- A [Recommendation Form](#) from a Math teacher, English teacher, or counselor is also required for each application file. No more than 3 recommendations will be accepted for each applicant. We will still accept typed letters of recommendation which should be mailed directly from the recommender to the address below.
- **All supporting documents and letters of recommendation should be mailed to:**

HFS Chicago Scholars  
Attn: Application Review Board  
1074 W. Taylor St., Mail Suite #201  
Chicago, IL 60607

### What is the timeline for the application process?

**APPLICATION OPENS - AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> || APPLICATION DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

#### OCTOBER 20th

HFS Chicago Scholars Scholarship Virtual Open House\*

Register for event here: <https://bit.ly/hfsnight>

\*Share this [event flyer](#) with interested students and families.

\*Schools & CBOs are invited, too! Register [here](#).



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#### NOVEMBER 15th

*Completed applications and recommendation forms must be submitted by November 15th. If mailing, supporting documents must be postmarked by the same date.* Faxes are not accepted. Materials should be mailed to: HFS Chicago Scholars, 1074 W. Taylor St., Mail Suite #201, Chicago, IL 60607.

#### JANUARY

Applicants notified if selected for an interview

Reminder to Candidates – Apply for financial aid at your prospective high schools.

#### FEBRUARY

1st and 2nd Round Interviews held.

#### MARCH

Interviewed candidates are notified if selected for a scholarship.

#### APRIL

Scholarship and Wait-list Acceptance Forms due along with final high school choice, acceptance into other scholarships, and proof of enrollment in a private high school.

#### MAY

The Class of 2025 is officially welcomed at Freshman Signing Day! Families register for summer school. In preparation for high school, all incoming HFS Scholars are required to attend and successfully complete summer enrichment courses. Tuition for this summer program is covered by HFS.