



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Exciting news: New families or eligible families attending your school can now apply for scholarships for the upcoming 2025-26 school year! To start the application process, families can quickly fill out a pre-application form online at <https://bisonfund.org/>. Please be mindful that our deadline for submissions is March 31, 2025. Scholarships are awarded by a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications. All applicants will be notified of the lottery results via email on April 1st.

Enclosed, please find the new BISON Children's Scholarship Fund poster and a detailed FAQ sheet. These materials serve as excellent marketing tools for families who are attending or visiting your school. We would greatly appreciate it if you could make copies for prospective families to distribute. For your convenience, the BISON flyer is also available in PDF format on the homepage of our database. Additionally, we encourage you to display this poster on your announcement bulletin board.

Please make sure BISON is represented on your school's website and featured in your newsletters. We encourage you to actively discuss the program with prospective families at your open houses to ensure they are aware of the scholarship opportunities available.

I am thrilled to inform you that the new maximum award is **\$3,000** per student for the 2025-26 school year, providing significant support to eligible families.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding the BISON Fund, please do not hesitate to contact the BISON Fund office at 716-854-0869.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in sharing this vital information about our program with your families. Together, we can help more children access the educational opportunities they deserve.

Best regards,

Cindy McDonald

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BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

The **BISON Children's Scholarship Fund** is a private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private K-12 schools.

BISON K-8 Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average K-8 scholarship in 2024 of \$1,725
- The maximum award is \$3,000.
- Currently BISON has over 1,800 scholars in 77 different private schools across Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

STEP 1

Complete a pre-application online at bisonfund.org between **January 15, 2025** and **March 31, 2025**. Call BISON with questions at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

STEP 2

Watch for notification after the BISON Lottery is held on **April 1, 2025**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year and add siblings.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2024 household income)
2	\$ 57,105
3	\$ 71,955
4	\$ 86,805
5	\$ 101,655
6	\$ 116,505
7	\$ 131,355
8	\$ 146,205



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FAQ for FAMILIES

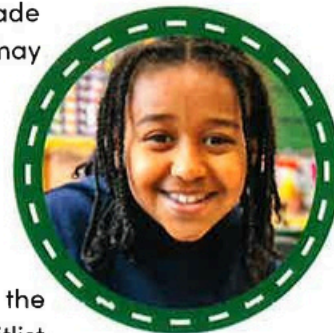
More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bisonfund.org

WHO QUALIFIES FOR A BISON K-8 SCHOLARSHIP?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale on the reverse side. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

HOW DO NEW FAMILIES APPLY?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at bisonfund.org. The new family deadline is **March 31, 2025**. Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 3/31 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the **March 31, 2025** deadline will be placed on our waitlist.



HOW ARE BISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **April 1, 2025**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON THE LOTTERY?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **April 1, 2025**. If you're not chosen in the lottery, you can always reapply for the next school year.



I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EMAIL ... NOW WHAT?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. **The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2025**. Please be sure to include all your income sources including your Federal 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.



I RECEIVED NOTICE I'M ON A WAITLIST ... NOW WHAT?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.

WHY DO FAMILIES HAVE TO PAY PART OF THE TUITION?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.