

2026 CHICAGO AREA LECET

Academic/Merit Based Award Application

The Chicago Area Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) will award twenty scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to ten winners of the Random Drawing and ten winners of the Academic/Merit Based Award. The funds may be used at any accredited college or university in the United States. These scholarships are automatically renewable for an additional three consecutive years, for a total of four years, provided that the student maintains a 2.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and enrolled on a full-time status (twelve (12) or more credit hours).

DEADLINE

Completed applications and all required supporting materials must be sent in a single email to Chicago Area LECET at scholarship@chicagolecet.org by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

SCORING SYSTEM

The winners will be scored on the basis of their academic, school and extracurricular achievements as well as their personal essay. The academic, school and community extracurricular achievements will count as 75% of the overall score, with the essay making up the remaining 25%. For more information on the academic and essay requirements, see page 2 of the application. The top ten students who score highest will win the scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Senior in high school, scheduled to graduate in the Spring of 2026, with proof of acceptance at an appropriate college or university.
- Dependent of a Chicago Laborers' District Council LIUNA member.
- Either the applicant or the applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of a Chicago Laborers' District Council affiliated local union. To confirm a union's affiliation status, please visit <https://www.chicagolecet.org/about-us/affiliated-locals/>.
- The applicant must choose to enter *either (1) the Random Drawing; or (2) Academic/Merit Based Award* for the Chicago Area LECET Scholarship. Students are not eligible to enter both. **STUDENTS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER BOTH CATEGORIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BOTH CATEGORIES.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is expressly understood that the Scholarship Review Committee shall adopt guidelines to assist in the selection of qualified candidates and may revise such guidelines as from time to time as it deems to be appropriate. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ARE FINAL, BINDING, AND NON-APPEALABLE.**

The scholarships are entirely unrestricted as to race, religion, political affiliation, or choice of accredited college or university. Chicago Area LECET will send the scholarship funds directly to the student, with the check payable to the college or university. For the purposes of allocation, the funds of this scholarship are to be used with the following priority: 1) Tuition and fees; 2) Book purchases; and 3) Room and Board and other expenses. There is no restriction as to income of the family nor the acceptance of other scholarship awards by the winners. Any questions of issues regarding the scholarships must be resolved by the students. **Only winners will be contacted by Chicago Area LECET.** The names of the winners and their Laborers' Local Union affiliation will be posted to the Chicago Area LECET website, and excerpts from their essays may be used for promotional purposes as the Chicago Area LECET deems appropriate.

The Chicago Area LECET Scholarships will be awarded to the winners as soon as possible after selection. Once all winners of the Random Drawing and Academic/Merit Based Award are determined, a presentation date may be chosen by the Scholarship Selection Committee and sent to the scholarship winners.

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must complete the Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award Application and the personal essay. Email the COMPLETED application, personal essay and all required supporting materials to: scholarship@chicagolecet.org.

APPLICATION FORM

Both pages 4 and 5 of the Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award Application must be completed to qualify for the scholarship.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

This section of the application must be completed on pages 4 and 5 and signed by the applicant. Once the applicant has completed the top section, the applicant must obtain the signatures of an Executive Board Member of the applicant's parent's (or applicant's) Local Union, as well as the principal of the applicant's high school, as outlined below.

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF LABORERS' LOCAL UNION:

This section of the application must be completed and signed by an Executive Board Member of the applicant's parent's (or applicant's) Local Union (example: President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary or Business Manager). Please note: Business Agents, stewards, and delegates do not qualify as an Executive Board Member.

CERTIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

This section of the application must be completed and signed by the principal of the applicant's high school or other authorized high school representative (i.e., guidance counselor).

PERSONAL ESSAY

In a PDF document, all applicants must answer the question: ***How has the Laborers' Union impacted my life?***

Essay Guidelines:

- 500 words or less
- Typed, single-spaced. Font should be 12 point Times New Roman, or similar sized font
- 1-inch margin on all four sides of the page
- Upper left corner should include:
 - Applicant's Name, as listed on the application
 - Applicant's Phone Number, as listed on the application

No additional information about the applicant should be included in the essay

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Email the following items in a single email to scholarship@chicagolecet.org by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

1. Completed application with appropriate signatures from Local Union's Executive Board Member and high school principal or authorized high school representative
2. Official ACT or SAT Report
3. Transcripts that provide 7 semesters of academic work (6 semesters will be considered incomplete/unacceptable record.)
4. Completed Activity Page found on page 3 of this Application (LECET reserves the right to verify this information.)
5. Personal Essay

Students should provide the appropriate signature page from the Chicago Area LECET Application to both their high school principal and Local Union's Executive Board Member separately to request signatures from both. Once they have received the signatures back from their high school principal and Local Union's Executive Board Member, then, **all materials** should be emailed using the following guidelines:

- All documents should be compiled in one email
- All documents should be in a PDF format as **attachments**/do not put in the body of the email/no links to other accounts
- All documents should be labeled with student name and item (i.e., John Smith_ACT Report)

Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award Activity Page
Include: (NHS, Honor Roll, Clubs, Organizations, Committees, Volunteerism, Arts, Sports, Employment, etc.)
Applications due Tuesday, March 31, 2026

1 = Freshman 2 = Sophomore 3 = Junior 4 = Senior

Name of Activity* (School Related)	Active Years	Title Held / Description
Example: Student Govt, NHS, Clubs	3,4	Vice-President

Community Activity* (Indicate organization purpose)	Active Years	Title Held / Description

School / Club Athletics*	Active Years	Title Held / Description

Award or Honors *	Active Years	Title Held / Description

**Use additional sheets if necessary.*

Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award Application
Certification of Chief Executive Officer of Local Union
Applications due Tuesday, March 31, 2026

APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please complete)

Name of Applicant: _____
(First, Middle, Last Name)

Applicant's Home Address: _____
(Address, City, State, Zip)

Phone: _____
(Home) _____ (Cell)

Email: _____

Name of Union Member
(Either Applicant or Parent): _____
(First, Middle, Last Name)

Relationship of Union Member to Applicant: _____

Address of Union Member: _____
(Address, City, State, Zip)

Laborers' Local Union Number: _____ LIUNA Member Number: _____

I hereby apply for the Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award and agree to abide by the decision of the judges as published in the announcement.

(Signature of Applicant)

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF LABORERS' LOCAL UNION
(Affiliate of the Chicago Laborers' District Council)

I certify that I examined the statements of the applicant named on the above form. Statements in regard to the union membership of the applicant or the applicant's parent are in accordance with our records. The union member is a full member of this union and in good standing.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Executive Board Member Title: _____ Laborers' Local Union #: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Executive Board Member should print this form, sign it, then scan and email back to the applicant for submission

Chicago Area LECET Scholarship Academic/Merit Based Award Application
Certification of High School Principal or Authorized High School Representative
Applications due Tuesday, March 31, 2026

APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please complete)

Name of Applicant: _____
(First, Middle, Last Name)

Applicant's Home Address: _____
(Address, City, State, Zip)

Phone: _____
(Home) _____ (Cell)

Email: _____

Name of Applicant's High School: _____

Address of High School: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Accredited College or University you would
like to attend (include city & state): _____

CERTIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR AUTHORIZED HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

I certify that _____
(Name of Student)

will be graduating from _____
(Name of High School)

on _____
(Date of Graduation)

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Principal or Authorized High School Representative should print this form, sign it, then scan and email back to the applicant for submission