

HELEN STOKES

Scholarship
SINCE 1956



THE HELEN STOKES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: EMPOWERING STUDENTS SINCE 1956

In 1956, the Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Fund was launched to honor Helen Stokes, the then South Carolina State President. Instead of a traditional farewell gift, Helen proposed establishing a scholarship to support South Carolina high school seniors aspiring to become teachers. Her vision came to life with a generous matching contribution from her husband, Dr. J. Howard Stokes Sr.

For over 50 years, this fund has been a stepping stone for countless South Carolina students, providing scholarships to help cover their education costs. It's a beacon for those pursuing post-secondary education in their chosen fields.

The fund thrives on contributions from Honorary Life Service awards, the SCPTA Spirit of PTA Award, local unit donations, memorials, sponsorships, and corporate gifts. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total funds raised.

The SCPTA board of directors oversees the fund, ensuring its smooth operation and the fair distribution of scholarships. Through this scholarship, the legacy of Helen Stokes continues to inspire and support the next generation of South Carolina students.



Eligibility

- Scholarship applicant must be a senior at a South Carolina high school.
- Applicant must be a South Carolina resident for at least one (1) year.
- Applicants will be judged on the following criteria: PTA involvement, academic record (including ACT/SAT scores), extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation and an essay.
- Recipients must plan to attend an accredited college and/or post-secondary education program in South Carolina.
- Scholarship is for one (1) year, payable Fall Semester only.
- The Helen Stokes Scholarship committee shall review all applications and shall have full authority to grant scholarships. All decisions of the committee are final.
- All applications **must** contain a signature of sponsorship from a local PTA/PTSA that is in good standing with the SCPTA. (If an applicant attends a high school without a PTA, the student may be sponsored by any elementary, middle, or junior high school, which is considered a feeder school of that high school.)
- The PTA/PTSA recommending the applicant must contribute at least \$25.00 per applicant before April 1, 2024 to the Helen Stokes Memorial Fund. The sponsoring PTA/PTSA unit must be in good standing with the SCPTA.
- The Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Fund application form is available on the SCPTA website at www.scpta.org (Forms >> Awards, Grants, & Scholarships).

Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Application

(Must be postmarked by April 1, 2025)

To be considered for the Helen Stokes Scholarship the following items must be submitted together in one envelope:

1. Complete application form
2. Transcript of grades
3. Two (2) academic letters of recommendation (principal, teacher, counselor)
4. One (1) character letter of recommendation (pastor, employer, etc.)
5. Signature of sponsorship from an SC PTA/PTSA unit in good standing with the SCPTA, and \$25.00 contribution to the Helen Stokes Scholarship fund.
6. Essay- 'Why Do Schools Need a PTA?' (250 words or less)
7. Any incomplete application will be disqualified.



STUDENT SHOULD COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Personal Data (Please print clearly)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ SC Zip code _____

Parent or Guardian _____

SOUTH CAROLINA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

School Data

Name of High School _____ Graduation date _____

School

Address _____

City _____ SC Zip code _____

Student's Credentials

(If more space is needed, attach additional pages. A student resume may also be attached)

SC College choice and/or Acceptance Letter (scholarship awarded only to SC colleges)

Extra-curricular Activities, Community Service or special interest (in and out of school) (School clubs, organizations, sports, fine arts, etc. in which you actively participated)

List any scholarships you have currently received _____

List other members of your household; give age of each and school or college (if any

Are you a PTA/PTSA member? In what PTA/PTSA activities have you participated?

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Please submit

1. Student transcript of grades
 2. ACT Scores _____ SAT Scores _____
 3. GPA/GPR _____
 4. Class rank _____ out of _____
 5. Guidance Department phone number. () _____
- Signature of Guidance Counselor _____

ESSAY: To be completed by the student in 250 words or less.

‘Why Do Schools Need a PTA?’

PTA/PTSA SHOULD COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Name of local PTA/PTSA unit sponsor _____

\$25.00 Contribution Enclosed: YES NO (if no, please explain)

Signature of PTA/PTSA president and/or treasurer _____

Mailing information

All applications and attachments must be postmarked by **April 1, 2025**. Mail all applications and sponsorship checks to:

Attachments will not be returned. An acceptance letter from an accredited post-secondary institution located in South Carolina will be required. The scholarship award will be payable to the school on behalf of the student.

Helen Stokes Scholarship
SCPTA
1826 Henderson St.
Columbia, SC 29201