Support for Talented Students

Scholarship Application Instructions
<div align="center">PRINT THIS PAGE AS A REFERENCE</div>

Student Eligibility: Support for Talented Students (STS) scholarships are awarded only to children who meet the following criteria:

- Parents or guardians must demonstrate financial need. (See table below)
- Applicants must be currently in grades 3 through 11.
- Applicants must be identified as gifted or talented according to the Rule of the State of Ohio.
- Students who have not previously received an STS scholarship will be given preference if scholarship funds are limited.

Demonstrated Financial Need

The student applicant and family must meet **one or more** of the following financial need criteria:

1. Receive financial assistance from federal, state, or county governments.
2. The family income is at or below the amount shown in the income guideline table below for the appropriate number of household members.
3. If the family does not meet at least one of the above requirements, the family must provide an "extra-ordinary" circumstance for at least the current year that prevents them from fully or partially paying for the enrichment program. This allows the applicant to describe situations, such as emergency medical expenses, those mandated by court decisions, unemployment, or other real life situations that do not fit well into computerized answer spaces.

If none of the above apply to this family, an STS Scholarship will unlikely be awarded. In that case, the family should check directly with the desired program to see if it provides financial assistance.

Financial Need Guidelines	
No. of Household Members	Annual Income
1	$48,560
2	$65,840
3	$83,120
4	$100,400
5	$117,680
6	$134,960
7	$152,240
8	$169,520

+ each additional person	$17,280

Eligible Enrichment Programs: It is recommended, but not required, that the student attend one of the programs to which scholarships have previously been awarded (see the "Summer Programs" option on the left side of the STS web pages, Their directors have worked with STS to register scholarship award winners into their programs.

You may, of course, apply for a scholarship to a program not on this list. Be aware, however, that STS will have to investigate the program to determine if the program meets STS' criteria as an academically- or artistically-focused activity. If it fails to do so, the scholarship application will not be considered.

Choosing a program for your child:

Acceptable Programs are programs focused on ACADEMICS or THE ARTS, such as:

- Math/computer courses; science and engineering camps
- Art, theater, music, and dance instructional programs
- Writing and language workshops; entrepreneurship studies
- Chess programs

UNAcceptable Programs:

- General-activities camps centered on recreation
- Sports camps
- Private military school programs
- Any programs outside the continental United States

In the application, you will be asked to provide information for the program you would like your child to attend.

1. Every application must include the name of the Program, Session name, the Start and End dates, Program Cost and Requested amount. A student statement is also needed.
2. If the Program is not on the STS "Summer Programs" list, the application must also include a statement describing the program's main goals and activities. Almost every program makes this information available online.

Remember, the registration to the desired program *is a separate process*; **you must apply to and be accepted by the Program** as well as apply for the STS Scholarship. Go to the Program's website and follow its instructions. *The student must be accepted to the Program and Session for the specified start and end dates before the STS scholarship award can be finalized*.

If the program's application process is available only on-line and it requires a pre-payment (often by credit card) to complete its registration process, *do not make the payment*. You must contact the program's director or main office to request advice on how to complete the application process where a scholarship is pending approval. STS works with many Program Coordinators to help facilitate Program registration without parent's full, direct payment when a scholarship may be awarded.

Questions about the STS Application: If you have any questions about the application process OR if you need assistance, you may:

1. Contact STS by email at STSinfo@supportfortalentedstudents.org **OR**
2. Write to:

> Support for Talented Students, Inc.
> Scholarship Committee
> 2200 Lane Woods Drive
> Columbus, OH 43221

Sponsor Recommendation for Student Applicant

Each applicant must be sponsored and referred to STS by a public or private school gifted coordinator, classroom teacher, school psychologist, guidance counselor, or other qualified educator from the child's **current** school who can certify that the child has been identified as gifted or talented according to the Rule of the State of Ohio. See http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Rules-Regulations-and-Policies-for-Gifted-Educatio/TheLawORC3324-01-07.pdf.aspx.

> In the Columbus City Schools district, students do not need to submit the sponsor's form; STS will obtain the sponsor's recommendation through the Columbus Gifted program.

> In districts outside the Columbus City Schools, students must have the sponsor complete a recommendation form and verify the student's gifted identification. Sponsors may complete that form from the website.

STS Scholarship Terms and Conditions

If the child is awarded a scholarship, the scholarship money will be held by STS until STS confirms with the Program that it has received that child's completed activity application and has enrolled the child in a session. STS will then send the program the amount of the award for the child.

If the child is awarded a scholarship but decides not to attend the program, STS will retain the scholarship.

A child who is accepted into a program and for whom tuition has been sent by STS is expected to attend that program. If the child does not attend the scheduled program, STS will receive the refund and return it into the STS general scholarship fund.

Occasionally, for reasons over which STS has no control, some popular programs close their enrollments before STS scholarship candidates get the chance to apply for them. If your child should be closed out of a program, and if you have properly submitted your application to the program according to our instructions, STS will work with you and the program administrators to try to place your child in another program or session of similar interest and approximately equal cost.

Instructions the begin the STS Scholarship Application

IMPORTANT: READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK ON THE APPLICATION. FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Be Prepared to Complete the Application: An on-line application is preferred. Before beginning the application process, be sure to have the following information on hand:

1. Summer Program details:

Program and Session name
Start and End Date of the program
Program's website address
Cost and Requested Amount (which may be less than the Program's cost

2. School's Gifted or Talented Sponsor Contact Information.

3. Student Statement using the topic guideline listed below. We recommend having your child type the essay in a word processing program and then copy and paste the essay into the space on the application or include the printed essay with the application form.

Student Statement (to be written by the student): In a short paragraph, what do you hope to learn in this program that is new and different for you? (We already know you will do fun things and make new friends, so please share the other things you hope to gain from the program.)

The STS application should be submitted online using the **Blue Underlined Link below** or the application may be found on the bottom of the front page of the website, downloaded. completed and mailed via postal service to the address below. It must be postmarked by the application end date.

Click here: [Support for Talented Students Summer Scholars Online Application](#)

E-Mail scanned application and income verification forms to
STSinfo@supportfortalentedstudents.org **OR**

Mail application and/or income verification forms to:
Support for Talented Students, Inc.
Scholarship Committee
2200 Lane Woods Drive
Columbus, OH 43221

Notifications: Children's parents/guardians will be notified in April of the application status. The Programs will be notified in April as well.

Pay It Forward - Scholarship Financial Support Welcomed: It is through the generosity of our contributors and partners that STS is able to provide summer opportunities for Central Ohio students.

If you are a parent/guardian, a payment of any portion of the program cost, reduces the funds required from STS and allows some funds to be used for other students. Thank you!

If you are a non-parent/guardian interested in making a tax-deductible contribution, please send a check to the address below. A tax deduction form in the STS brochure may be downloaded from the STS Welcome homepage.