



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2026

Scholarship Application

Dear Student,

The VRGA Scholarship Committee reviews **ONLY** applications that are **100% complete** and have **all requested** supporting materials attached. Your application will **NOT** be considered if any items are missing, areas on the application are left blank, or the application is submitted after **April 24, 2026**.

The following is a checklist of all the information required.

Please retain this as your guide.

Before emailing your Scholarship application have you:

_____ Completed **ALL** areas on the application.

_____ Emailed a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA application (*the page that shows the EFC amount—Estimated Family Contribution*)

_____ Emailed a copy of your financial aid letter from the college you plan to attend. Cost of tuition, room and board, books, and lab fees.

_____ Entered your SAT/ACT Scores

_____ *Emailed a copy of your high school transcripts*

_____ *Signed the application*

_____ *Sent a photo (senior picture or headshot) with a photo release (at end of application)*

_____ *Emailed a recommendation from your current employer. If not employed, two recommendations from other adults (i.e. mentor, coach, community service supervisor, etc.) are required.*

_____ Upload an outside recommendation (i.e. teacher, guidance counselor, coach, etc.)

IMPORTANT: *You may only submit one school for consideration. If you change schools and have been awarded a scholarship, your application will be reviewed for eligibility.*

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to follow up with the VRGA office prior to the April 24th deadline to confirm all necessary materials and application have been received. It is recommended all supporting materials and application be emailed or mailed together whenever possible to avoid missing items.

Vermont Retail & Grocers Association

Scholarship Program

Vermont Retail & Grocers Association 2026 Scholarship Program

PURPOSE

To provide financial assistance to eligible students entering their first year at an accredited two or four-year school in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

- be a Vermont resident and be affiliated with a VRGA Member in Vermont;
- be a student completing high school as of June, 2026, planning to attend a US accredited two or four year postsecondary school or;
- plan to attend for the first time a US accredited two or four-year postsecondary school in 2026 and have received a high school diploma;
- file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than four weeks prior to the scholarship deadline listed below;

and meet one or more of the following conditions:

- be the dependent of an employee or owner of a VRGA member company. Company or Employee must be located in Vermont or have responsibility in Vermont;
- be an employee of a VRGA retail or associate member company in Vermont. Employee must be located in Vermont or have responsibility in Vermont.
- The employee must be employed a minimum of 15 hours per week or 750 hours per year; and have been employed at a VRGA retail member store or company for a minimum of one year at the time the student applies for this scholarship.

AMOUNT

Five Scholarships of \$3,000 each will be awarded based on merit.

DEADLINE

APRIL 24, 2026– Completed application & supporting documents must be **postmarked** by this date. Applications will not be considered if sections of the application are blank or supporting documents are missing.

PLEASE NOTE: *Scholarships are made payable to both the student and the school. Some schools may adjust other financial aid based on scholarships received.*

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this application and mail or email to the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association, postmarked no later than **April 24, 2026**. You will receive notification from the VRGA Scholarship Committee in early June. **Please type or print in BLACK ink.**

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name _____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name _____

Date of Application _____ Last 4 of SSN _____

Home Address _____

PO Box _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Applicants Personal (Non-School) Email Address

II. ELIGIBILITY - STORE OR COMPANY AFFILIATION

Do you, the student, or a parent/guardian work for or own a VRGA member company?

STUDENT (____)

Store/Company where employed _____

Address _____

2026 High School Graduating Senior (____)

Received High School Diploma Year (____)

Parent(____) Legal Guardian (____) Employee (____) or Owner (____)

Name of Parent _____

Store/Company Name

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

College/University You Are Planning On Attending:

Address of College/University You Plan to Attend (Please list complete mailing address)

Tuition Costs & Fees: (Annual)

Tuition _____ Books _____

Room & Board _____ Lab Fees, etc. _____

Total Est. Cost \$ _____

Applicant **MUST** have filed a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and **MUST** attach a copy of his/her Student Aid Report (SAR) to this application along with the financial aid letter from the college or university he/she is attending.

IV. EDUCATION

In the chart below, list schools attended grades 9 through 12.

(Name of High School – City, State & Zip – Attendance Dates)

1.

2.

3.

Important: Be sure to include copies of your high school transcripts.

H.S. Principal (*First and Last Name*)

Phone Number

H.S. Guidance Counselor (*First and Last Name*)

Phone Number

What subjects have you found most interesting in your schoolwork?

First: -----

Second:-----

Do you feel that your high school grades are an accurate indication of your ability?

[☐] **Yes** [☐] **No**

If not, what were the factors that prevented you from doing better?

GPA _____

If you took college entrance exams please list scores below:

SAT Scores: Reading _____ Math _____ Writing _____

ACT Scores: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Writing* _____

**Only fill in if you took this portion of the exam.*

V. EMPLOYMENT

In your own words, please describe any jobs you have held or work you have performed during the past three years, either for your family at home or for outside employers.

List average weekly hours you work:

During School Year _____ **Summer Vacation** _____

VI. EDUCATIONAL PLANS

Name of College/University/Accredited Post-Secondary educational institution you plan to attend:

VII. -----
--

Degree/Certificate you plan to earn

Use the space provided below to describe your career plans

VII. AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Please indicate your involvement in high school activities such as: class or school offices, band or orchestra, athletics, dramatics, debate or oratory, school publications, pep club, etc.

Please list below the name of any award, honor, prize, and/or scholarship, etc. you have or expect to receive in recognition of outstanding achievement in high school.

What are your favorite recreational activities and/or hobbies?

VIII. COMMUNITY SERVICE

IX. PERSONAL STATEMENTS

What do you believe is your strongest personal strength?

Why do you think you should receive this scholarship?

Tell us a more about your family

| Siblings | Age | Student | (circle yes or no) |
|----------|-----|---------|--------------------|
| ----- | | | yes no |
| ----- | | | yes no |
| ----- | | | yes no |

X. SIGNATURE AND ENCLOSURES

In order for the applicant to be considered for the Vermont Retail & Grocers Association Scholarship Program, the following materials must be received by the VRGA Scholarship Committee **postmarked or emailed no later than APRIL 24, 2026.**

- Completed application form
- Copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA (page that shows Estimated Family Contribution)
- Copy of financial aid letter from college you are attending which includes cost of tuition, room and board, books, and lab fees)
- Recommendation from your current or previous employer
- One outside recommendation (i.e. from a teacher, guidance counselor, coach) (If you are not employed please include 2 recommendations from this category)
- Official copy of your high school transcripts (can be emailed from school)
- Photo (senior picture or headshot) with signed photo release (at end of application document)

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED ON THE APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS ARE INCLUDED, OTHERWISE YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Please email completed application to: info@vtrga.org or mail application & supporting documents to:

Vermont Retail & Grocers Association Attn: Scholarship
963 Paine Turnpike N
Berlin, VT 05602

VERMONT RETAIL & GROCERS ASSOCIATION
963 Paine Turnpike N, Berlin VT 05602

Permission to Use Photograph

Subject: 2026 Scholarship

I grant **Vermont Retail & Grocers Association**, its representatives and employees the right to use photographs of me in connection with the above-identified subject. I authorize **Vermont Retail & Grocers Association**, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that **Vermont Retail & Grocers Association** may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Signature

Printed Name

Organization Name

Address

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 yrs of age)
