

HANNAH MEADORS SCHOLARSHIP

Guidelines:

1. \$1,000 is designated from the general fund to be awarded to the recipient.
2. One recipient is selected per year.
3. The scholarship recipient is recognized at the annual Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference.
4. The disbursement of funds is to be made in two payments, one at the beginning of each semester for with the student is enrolled.
5. The recipient may not reapply the following year for the scholarship.
6. The applicant must show proof of having been accepted into a bachelor's or graduate program in early childhood education, child development or elementary education (curriculum and instruction) with an emphasis in early childhood.
7. The criteria for application is as follows:
 - a. Be a Mississippi Early Childhood Association member in good standing for a minimum of two years prior to making application for the scholarship.
 - b. The applicant must produce, at the time of application, an official transcript from the college/university from which they last graduated.
 - c. Complete the application and submit it by the deadline set by the application committee. (A one page essay as to why the applicant is most deserving of the scholarship will be the primary part of the application.)
 - d. If the committee selects the applicant as a finalist, he/she agrees to be interviewed by the selection committee. (They must provide their own transportation – no reimbursement paid by Mississippi Early Childhood Association.)
 - e. The applicant must enroll in an accredited program in a university or college within the state of Mississippi.
 - f. The applicant must agree to submit a copy of the official grade report to the selection committee at the end of the Fall semester and again in the Spring. (Should the money be used for Summer school, grades must be submitted at the end of each semester should they receive the award.)
 - g. The applicant must agree to work in Mississippi in the area of early childhood education for two years following the completion of the degree.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following criteria will be followed in the selection of the Mississippi Early Childhood Association scholarship recipient.

- The applicant provides all the information required by the date set by the selection committee.
- The selection committee will review each file individually and select the three with the most potential. The written one page response by the applicant will be rated on a scale of 1-5 by the

three committee members. The scores will be added together with each applicant getting an overall or combined score on the written one page response.

- The selection committee will be composed of three people with diverse work backgrounds. Current Mississippi Early Childhood Association Board members will not form the majority of this committee.
- The top three applicants will be given a clean slate and judged on the basis of an oral committee interview. Each member of the selection committee will rate the applicant on a scale of 1-5 on each of the ten interview questions. The scores will be added together with each applicant getting an overall score. The applicant with the highest score on the oral interview will be the winner.
- The questions which comprise the interview were selected so each applicant will have the opportunity to share their personal philosophy, beliefs, and ideas with the selection committee. The selection committee is charged with the responsibility for determining the extent to which these ideas are compatible with the Mississippi Early Childhood philosophy and are educationally sound.
- The applicant must produce proof that he/she is accepted into an undergraduate or graduate program/university he/she wished to attend prior to awarding the money.
- Factors weighed most heavily in the award process:
 - a. The written one page response included in the application
 - b. The interview
 - c. GPA at graduating institution
 - d. Work experience
 - e. Degree sought
 - f. Future career plans after obtaining degree

In the event the winner moves during the schooling period or allows the GPA to fall below a 3.00, the scholarship is terminated.

The education committee will review applications and interview final candidates submitting their recommendation to the Board for approval prior to the annual Mississippi Early Childhood Association Conference in October.