

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

HELEN KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The scholarship will be awarded to one full-time student each academic year.
- B. The scholarship recipient shall receive a grant of \$2,000 for the academic year, to be used for educational expenses.
- C. If for any reason a recipient does not conform to any or all the policies, the IRTA Foundation Board has the right to revoke the scholarship.
- D. All applications must be postmarked and mailed or emailed to the office of the IRTA Foundation on or before March 7, 2026, prior to the applicant's sophomore, junior, or senior year in college. Recipients will be notified by April 21 of that same year.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The student must be accepted into a Teacher Certification Program in order to receive IRTAF scholarship funding.
- B. Applicants must be a graduate of an Illinois high school. The recipient of the Helen Kennedy scholarship must submit proof of graduation from an Illinois high school before receiving funds.
- C. Applicants must have a declared major in education.
- D. Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized college or university.
- E. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- F. Applicants must provide official college/university transcripts prior to receiving funds.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- A. Each applicant must complete an application provided by the IRTA Foundation.
- B. Each applicant must submit a one page (double-spaced) personal letter of introduction, also stating reasons for applying and reasons why the applicant should be named a recipient.
- C. All official college/university transcripts must accompany the application.
- D. Proof of graduation from an Illinois high school must accompany the application.
- E. A signed "Consent to Release Information" form must be submitted with each application.
- F. Verification of acceptance in an accredited Teacher Education Program must be provided. (School of study on the official transcript is acceptable)

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC.

APPLICATION FOR THE IRTA FOUNDATION
HELEN KENNEDY SCHOLARSHIP
2026

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- A 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- A declared major in education
- Enrollment in any recognized college/university
- Graduate of an Illinois High School
- Incoming Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in College

PERSONAL DATA

Applicant's Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Address: _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Home phone: () _____ Cell phone () _____

Birthdate: _____ Email _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Name of High School: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Previous College/University Attendance:

Name of Institution/s and Dates Attended: _____

College/University Enrollment in 2026-2027: _____

Declared Major: _____

ENCLOSURES

Please enclose the following with your application:

- One page (double-spaced) personal letter introducing yourself, also stating why you are applying for this scholarship, and reasons why you should be named a recipient.
- All official college/university transcripts
- Proof of graduation from an Illinois High School
- Signed "Consent to Release Information" form

Postmarked or emailed on/before March 7, 2026 to: IRTA Foundation, Inc.

828 S 2nd Street, 4th Floor

Springfield, IL 62704

Attention: Susan Goetz

susan@irtaonline.org

(217) 523-8488

(800) 728-4782

CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, _____, give Consent for the Illinois
NAME OF APPLICANT

Retired Teachers Association Foundation to verify application information. I also consent for the IRTA Foundation to use my photograph and to announce my award-winning in the media if I am a recipient of the Helen Kennedy IRTA Foundation Scholarship.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE