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MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Dear 23rd District Resident:

I am excited to share the following information regarding the application process for the 23rd District Senatorial Scholarship. Please read these instructions carefully and complete your application by the April 6<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission guidelines for the Senatorial Scholarship Program only allow me to award scholarships to students who permanently reside within the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District. For this reason, **I urge you to confirm your elected representatives** at [www.mdelect.net](http://www.mdelect.net) prior to filing an application. Applying to the incorrect office may result in missed deadlines and opportunities for an award.

Provided you reside within the 23<sup>rd</sup> District, the 2018–2019 school year application can be found on my website, [www.senatorpeters.com/scholarships](http://www.senatorpeters.com/scholarships). In addition to completing our application, you **must also file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, 2018**. This form may be downloaded at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Please understand that this is a **requirement** of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and I cannot award a scholarship to anyone who has not filed the FAFSA.

To be considered for a Senatorial Scholarship from my office you will need to **complete the 2018 application and submit it by close of business on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. The application must be completed online. After April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 you will need to send an email to [senatorpeters@senatorpeters.com](mailto:senatorpeters@senatorpeters.com) and request to be put on the waiting list should funds remain after the on-time applications are reviewed by the committee and initial awards are allocated.

You will see that we require an email address on the application. You will be notified of your application receipt by email within two weeks of my office receiving your completed application. **If you do not receive notification, please follow up with my office to ensure that your application was received.** Please save that email for your records; if there is any problem or any question regarding my office receiving your application, you will need the proof of receipt.

**Senatorial scholarships may be used for undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies (trade school).** Full-time students must maintain 12 or more credits per semester for undergraduate students and 9 or more credits per semester for graduate students. Part-time students must maintain 6-11 credits per semester for undergraduate students and 6-8 credits per semester for graduate students.

**If you are already a recipient of a Senatorial Scholarship**, a full-time student and remain a Maryland resident, your scholarship is **valid for four years from the time of the award or until you receive your undergraduate degree**, whichever comes first. If you are a part-time student and remain a Maryland resident, your scholarship is valid for a maximum of eight years. If your scholarship has been in effect for four years and you have not yet earned your undergraduate degree, you are not eligible for further aid for undergraduate work. Please **do not reapply** if you are a current recipient of a Senatorial Scholarship. **Again, there is no need to reapply to keep your current award active: if the above guidelines are met, your Senatorial Scholarship will automatically renew.**

You may use this scholarship at an out of state school **only if your major is not available at an accredited Maryland institution**. The Office of State Financial Aid must verify your major is "unique". To be considered for unique major approval, you must contact The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) for the requirements. The link is below.

[http://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Documents/Financial%20Aid/UNIQUE%20MAJOR%20APPLICATION%20\(16-17\).pdf](http://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Documents/Financial%20Aid/UNIQUE%20MAJOR%20APPLICATION%20(16-17).pdf)

Our District 23 senatorial scholarship questionnaire asks applicants to give general information, college information (if applicable), community involvement, as well as financial status. Please be sure the financial information on your application matches the financial information on the FASFA. Furthermore, applicants are encouraged to describe any special circumstances which create a need for financial aid.

If you are interested in applying for a **Delegate Scholarship**, please visit [www.mdelect.net](http://www.mdelect.net) to see your other representatives and contact information for their individual offices. All offices handle the scholarship process differently so you will need to **contact them directly for their application and procedures**.

After the April 6<sup>th</sup> deadline, my Scholarship Committee will review all applications and make award decisions. I am hopeful that decisions will be made by the end of July, and my office will contact you at that time. Please make sure to fully complete all components of the application, **incomplete applications will not be considered**. If you have any questions or difficulties completing the application, please contact my office for assistance.

To begin your application, [please click here](#).

I look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 301-858-3631.

Best wishes,



Douglas J. J. Peters