

DAVID S RATNER SCHOLARSHIP

Long-term support for NSW public education students who identify as Jewish, from primary school through to university or TAFE



Overview of Scholarship

The David S Ratner Scholarship rests on a straightforward conviction: a student's circumstances at home should not set the ceiling on what they achieve at school. Rather than one-off financial support, it commits to a student for up to five years – following them through primary school, high school and on into university or TAFE – for as long as they remain in public education.

It helps students meet the ordinary costs of schooling that quietly decide whether they keep pace: books and stationery, a device and an internet connection at home, tutoring, excursions and camps, and course fees further down the track.

Is this scholarship for your child? It's open to students in a NSW public primary or high school, from Kindergarten to Year 12 in 2026, who are Australian citizens or permanent residents. Preference is given to students from Jewish families who show educational promise and would benefit from financial support. If that doesn't sound like your child, PEF's [Eligibility Quiz](#) can help you find a scholarship that does.

Eligibility Criteria

The student must:

- identify as Jewish
- attend a NSW government (public) primary or high school
- be in Kindergarten to Year 12 in 2027
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- not currently hold another Public Education Foundation scholarship – a student may hold only one PEF scholarship at a time

A complete application must also include:

- a copy of all pages of the student's most recent school report
- a reference from a member of the Jewish community who knows the student and addresses the selection criteria (PDF or Word, maximum 400 words)
- a supporting statement from the principal, completed online – the principal is sent the request automatically once the applicant enters their email address
- for applicants born outside Australia, a copy of a residency visa or citizenship certificate

Primary school applicants also provide:

- a statement from the parent or carer on why the student is a suitable candidate and how they meet each of the selection criteria
- a brief statement from the parent or carer on how the funds would be used

Secondary students also provide:

- a statement on why you are a suitable candidate and how you meet each of the selection criteria (maximum 400 words)
- a brief outline of your plans after you complete your HSC (maximum 150 words)
- if you are in Year 10, 11 or 12, a brief explanation of how your current or proposed subject selection and/or work experience will help your future study or work goals (maximum 250 words)
- a brief statement on how the funds would be used (maximum 150 words)

An application cannot be submitted until every section, including the Principal's Supporting Statement, is complete. Applications that are incomplete at the closing time cannot be assessed.

Continued eligibility

- The scholarship runs for a maximum of five years, provided the student remains in public education throughout that period
- If the student leaves public education during the scholarship period, the scholarship will lapse
- If attendance falls below an acceptable level at any time, the scholarship may be withdrawn
- Any unspent funds at the end of the scholarship period must be returned to the Public Education Foundation scholarship fund

Selection Process

Applications are assessed against the selection criteria below. Financial need alone does not decide the outcome, and neither does academic ranking – the panel is looking for students for whom this support would make a real difference.

Selection criteria

- experiencing disadvantage which could prevent the student from realising their potential at school
- potential to succeed at school, university or TAFE
- a positive attitude towards school and a high attendance rate
- participation in school life
- identifies as Jewish

How applications are assessed

- A selection panel reviews all applications and assesses them against the selection criteria
- The panel includes representatives of the Public Education Foundation, a funding representative, the NSW Department of Education and independent experts
- The panel's recommendations are put to the Public Education Foundation's Board for approval



Funding/Assistance

- \$1,000 per year for up to five years – a maximum of \$5,000 in total – commencing in 2027
- Payments are made annually and are subject to the student remaining eligible
- The scholarship may apply to the student transitioning from primary school to high school, or high school to tertiary study, provided they stay in public education
- The scholarship cannot be transferred to another student or family member

Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

Funds may be used to support the student's educational needs, such as:

- literacy and/or numeracy support
- stationery and text books
- a laptop, iPad or other similar device
- subject or study related software
- a printer
- an internet connection for study at home
- school excursions and school camps
- furniture for study, such as a desk, chair or lamp
- face-to-face or online tutoring
- course related fees

The scholarship is not intended for:

- general household or family expenses not connected to the student's education
- school fees or contributions that the family is not required to pay
- items for another child in the family

Record keeping

- Families should keep receipts for items bought with scholarship funds
- Unspent funds at the end of the scholarship period must be returned to the Public Education Foundation
- Before applying, please read the full scholarship [terms and conditions](#)

Application Form

Before starting your application, compile the following information ready to submit. The form can be saved and returned to at any time before the closing date.

Applicant details:

- full name
- gender
- date of birth
- phone number
- address
- email – please nominate an account you check regularly
- residence status – a copy of a residency visa or citizenship certificate is required for applicants born outside Australia

Parent or guardian details (at least one, up to two):

- name
- phone number
- relationship to the student
- email address – please nominate an account you check regularly

School details:

- name of school
- address
- principal name and email
- school point of contact – the person at the school you would like correspondence sent to, with their name, phone number and email

Background information about you and your family:

- whether you are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or Pacific or South Sea Islander
- your mob, family, traditional owner or language group
- whether you are from a non-English-speaking background
- country of origin of you and your parents
- languages you speak and languages spoken at home
- how many adults live in your home, and how many of them are working
- who the primary caregiver is at home
- how many other school-aged or younger children live in your home
- the highest education qualification in your immediate family
- whether you have a diagnosed disability or learning difficulty
- whether you have been in out-of-home care
- socio-economic background
- how you found out about the scholarship

Written components

See Eligibility Criteria above for the statements required, which differ for primary and secondary applicants, and for the reference and school report you will need to upload.

Notes for references

- Panels cannot contact referees for additional information, so the reference should include everything the referee feels is relevant
- Give your referee as much notice as you can, and let them know the closing date



Note for principals

Your statement is a critical component of the application and is given considerable weight in panel deliberations. Panels are looking for feedback that goes well beyond confirming that the student is enrolled at your school or that you endorse the application. Generic responses, or text copied from the applicant's or referee's statements, will disadvantage the applicant.

How to Apply

- Applications must be submitted online via [PEF-Apply](#), the Public Education Foundation's application portal. Create an account to access the form
- Complete every section of the application form
- Upload the school report, the reference and, if required, proof of residency
- Request the Principal's Supporting Statement through the online application. Do this early – the principal needs time to respond, and your application cannot be submitted without it
- Check that your contact details are correct, as all correspondence about the application is sent by email

If you need help with the form, or would prefer to complete it with support, contact the Public Education Foundation on the details at the end of this kit. Your school can also help you put the application together.

Submitting Your Application

- Applications open:
 - Secondary – July 2026
 - Primary – August 2026
- Applications close
 - Secondary – September 2026
 - Primary – October 2026

You can save your application in progress and return to it at any time before the closing date. Once you click Submit, your application is sent to the Public Education Foundation and will be reviewed during the Panel assessment period. **Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in December.**

Important information

- Late applications cannot be accepted, and the portal closes automatically at the advertised time
- All sections of the application, including the Principal's Supporting Statement, must be completed before the application can be submitted
- Submit as early as you can – the portal is busiest in the final days before closing
- You will receive an automatic email confirming your submission. If it does not arrive, check your junk folder and then contact the Public Education Foundation
- Applications cannot be edited after submission



Further Information and Contact Details

For further information, please contact the Public Education Foundation Scholarships team:

- Email: scholarships@publiceducationfoundation.org.au
- Phone: 02 7814 2806