

*Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 23, 2026.*



## Christopher K. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Delaware's professional educators - the 12,000 members of the Delaware State Education Association - are offering a scholarship of \$1,000 per year for four years in order to help a future teacher enter today's most rewarding, critical, and challenging profession.

*The members of DSEA invite all high school seniors graduating from a public school, who intend to pursue a career in teaching, to apply for this DSEA scholarship.*

### Criteria

The Selection Committee will consider:

- Class rank
- Grade point average (as shown on a transcript of high school record through the end of the senior year)
- SAT scores
- School activities for the past four (4) years
- Awards/Honors
- Career plans
- TWO letters of reference from the student's teachers (these letters should expand upon the student's activities and leadership record in high school, as well as the student's personal traits, character, and degree of initiative)

### Application and Award Procedures

- Application forms have been sent to all high school counseling offices.
- Applications and letters of reference should be sent or delivered to: DSEA Scholarship Task Force, 136 East Water Street, Dover, DE 19901.
- Applications must be postmarked no later than **January 23, 2026**.
- On or about **February 6, 2025**, DSEA will notify the top five finalists, inviting them to participate in an interview and complete an essay (30-minute time limit) in late February at the DSEA Headquarters in Dover.
- DSEA will announce the winner following the interviews.
- DSEA will send the scholarship check to the winning student upon receipt of expenses incurred during each year of college.

### Terms and Conditions

The recipient is encouraged to pursue a four-year college degree leading to a Delaware teacher certificate and teach in a public school, preferably in Delaware. The recipient must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and provide an annual transcript showing proof of the student being an education major. The scholarship will be rescinded should the student change from an education major.

### Questions?

Contact Sandy Dearman, Executive Assistant, at DSEA Headquarters 1-866-734-5834 or 302-734-5834.



Delaware State Education Association  
Standing Strong for Student Success

## Application Form for Christopher K. Smith Memorial Scholarship

*(Open to public school seniors who intend to pursue a career in teaching.)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Career Plans \_\_\_\_\_

List college(s) in which the applicant has applied/been accepted:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

We (applicant and parent) have read the conditions listed on page one of this application and agree to adhere to them if chosen as the recipient of the scholarship.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian)

The following items **MUST** be submitted in support of your application:

- **letters of reference from TWO TEACHERS** indicating the capacity in which this person has known you, your activities and leadership record in high school, as well as your personal traits, character, and degree of initiative;
- **a transcript of your high school record** (*highlighting honors classes*) including: class rank, SAT scores, and grade point average. *Please include a profile of the grading system;*
- **a personal statement of 150 words or less regarding your career plans;**
- **list of school/community activities participated in during the past four (4) years including awards, honors, and leadership roles.**

*Applications and letters of reference should be sent to: **DSEA Scholarship Task Force, 136 East Water Street, Dover, DE 19901.** Additional paper may be used, if necessary. Application information may also be emailed to [Sandy.Dearman@dsea.org](mailto:Sandy.Dearman@dsea.org).*

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