

2026 Earl Bane Scholarship

The scholarship recognizes and honors the hard work and distinguished business career of Earl Bane. Mr. Bane was a driving force behind the development of Dairy Queen franchises in Kansas during the 1950s and 1960s. Due to limited financial means, college was not an option for him, but he believed strongly in giving young people the opportunity to continue their education after high school.

We recognize not every student's path looks the same. Some soar through academics with ease, while others discover their strengths through persistence, grit, and determination. The Earl Bane Scholarship was created to recognize and support graduating seniors who have proven they are dedicated, hardworking, and ready to take the next step in their education. We believe success isn't measured only by a GPA – it is shown through effort, perseverance, and a commitment to keep moving forward, just as Mr. Bane moved through his life and career. This scholarship honors students who give their best, overcome challenges, and set their sights on a brighter future.

Ten \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to seniors graduating from high schools in Saline County (including persons obtaining an equivalent degree at the Adult Education Center). The scholarship is renewable for up to 7 additional semesters, with a potential total worth of \$20,000 (\$2,500 per semester). The scholarship can be used only toward undergraduate degrees at colleges within the state of Kansas, and must be used within the 5 year period following high school graduation.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Be a lawful, permanent resident or citizen of the United States
- Be a student attending high school in Saline County, Kansas, or the Adult Education Center
- Have demonstrated a strong work ethic and enterprising potential
- Be scheduled to graduate from a public or private high school or have obtained the equivalent of a certification of graduation (GED) within the previous 12 months
- If attending high school, have achieved at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- If attending the Adult Education Center, must have a minimum GED score of 150 on each of the 4 GED tests
- Apply for enrollment at an accredited institution of higher education **within the state of Kansas**, as a qualified full-time student with a minimum 12 credit hours per semester

2026 Earl Bane Scholarship Instructions

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Strict adherence to the following procedures is required for scholarship consideration.

- Submit five (5) copies of the application and attachments.
- Arrange each set of documents in the following order:
 1. Completed 2 page scholarship application, including signatures on page 2
 2. Resume (required by Section C of application)
 3. Essay attachment (required by Section D of application)
 4. Letters of reference (required by Section E of application)
 5. Official high school transcript including GPA or GED scores (required by Section G of application)
 6. For high school graduates, composite scores from either ACT or SAT (required by Section G of application)
- Staple each set of documents in the top, left-hand corner and mail in one envelope by March 2, 2026, to:

Earl Bane Foundation
PO Box 201
Salina, KS 67402-0201
- Applications must be **POSTMARKED no later than March 2, 2026.**

NOTES:

- Failing to follow the above directions will automatically disqualify the applicant.
- Incomplete or late applications will be disqualified.
- Winning applicants will be required to submit a photograph of yourself, and will be asked to consent to use thereof by the Foundation.
- No applications will be returned.
- A fillable pdf of the scholarship application is available at the Foundation website www.earlbane.org.

OTHER INFORMATION

Payment Process and Taxability

Scholarship payments will be made directly to the college or university **within the state of Kansas** where the applicant has been accepted to attend.

Scholarships may be partially or fully taxable. Consult your tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation.

Renewal Process

Renewal of scholarships after each semester is based on

- A 2.5 GPA or better at the college level (official transcripts to be submitted **by the recipient** to the Foundation at the completion of each semester), and
- Continued enrollment at an accredited institution of higher education within the state of Kansas, as a qualified full-time student with a minimum 12 credit hours per semester.

Breaks in continuous enrollment will be considered on a case by case basis. Scholarships must be used within the 5 year period following high school graduation.

2026 EARL BANE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION A ~ General Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Last First MI MM/DD/YYYY

Does the applicant have a valid Social Security Number? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Applicant Telephone: ☐ Cell ☐ Landline _____

Permanent Address _____
Street City, State Zip

Applicant Email address _____

SECTION B ~ Future Plans

Why do you want to pursue a post-secondary education? _____

What post-secondary school located in the state of Kansas do you plan to attend? _____

What profession or degree do you plan to pursue? _____

Will you take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester? ☐ Yes ☐ No

When do you plan to complete your post-secondary degree? (MM/YYYY) _____

SECTION C ~ Resume

Attach a one page resume that includes your high school and community activities, and jobs. Title the page Section C Resume. Maximum length: one page.

SECTION D ~ Essay

Personal essay – Share your journey and tell us how you have worked hard, what you have learned from your challenges, and how this scholarship would help you achieve your dreams. Title the page as Section D Essay. Maximum length: one page, double-spaced.

SECTION E ~ Letters of Reference

Attach letters of reference from 3 adults well acquainted with, but not related to you. At least one letter must be from a teacher, coach, advisor, activities sponsor, or principal in your high school and at least one letter must be from a person who is not employed by the school district where you attend high school.

SECTION F ~ Financial Information

Income

Provide applicant family's Student Aid Index (SAI)

from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) \$ _____

If applicant's family did not complete the FAFSA, provide the information below.

	Parent/Guardian #1	Parent/Guardian #2
Name	_____	_____
Occupation	_____	_____
Annual income	\$ _____	\$ _____

Other

Names and ages of Applicant's siblings and indicate whether they are attending post-secondary schools:

SECTION G ~ Transcript and ACT or SAT scores or GED scores

Attach an official high school transcript including GPA or GED scores.

- If attending high school, a minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for this scholarship, and attach composite scores from either ACT or SAT.
- If attending the Adult Education Center, a minimum GED score of 150 on each of the 4 GED tests is required for this scholarship.

I attest that all the information on this application and attachments is complete and accurate.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____