



# **Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation STARS Scholarship Rules and Guidelines**



The Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation (FJJF) is sponsoring scholarships for youth who have come in contact with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. FJJF has partnered with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation to establish STARS scholarships. The partnership provides an opportunity to economically disadvantaged youth to commit to a new direction and become eligible to receive a 2-year scholarship to a Florida college or technical school.

The Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation believes in investing in the future of our students and commits to providing selected applicants with an assigned mentor in their local community. The mentor will help guide the recipient to achieve success as they commit to completing high school, maintaining at least a 2.5 GPA in college or technical institution and living crime and drug free in order to receive and maintain their scholarship.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must submit the following items:

1. Completed application
2. A 200 - 300-word personal essay on how they plan to change their choices and commit to graduating from high school or obtaining a GED.
3. One letter of recommendation from a teacher or juvenile probation officer describing why the student deserves to receive a scholarship and how he/she stands out from his/her peers.
4. Signed Guidelines and Rules document.

A student is eligible if he/she meets the following criteria:

1. Under the age of 21.
2. A system involved student in grade 12<sup>th</sup> in a Florida public school (including a DJJ school) or received GED
3. A student who is a Florida resident with a valid Social Security number.
4. A student who has at least a 2.0 GPA or has earned a State of Florida Diploma (GED).
5. A student who commits to receive mentoring services and remaining crime and drug free.

Other information regarding the scholarship:

1. Each submission must include the application, signed guidelines and rules, personal essay, and letter of recommendation to be considered.
2. Applications must be submitted to DJJ Director of Education and will be accepted beginning December 2020 through January 15, 2021 for eligible graduates or students planning to graduate high school or earn a GED in 2021.
3. FJJF will review all applications and determine scholarship recipients to receive the Florida Prepaid STARS scholarship.
4. Selected recipients will be announced upon award of the scholarship.
5. Mentors will be assigned after the scholarship is awarded. Recipients will be expected to maintain communication at least monthly with their assigned mentor. Mentors will report to FJJF monthly to confirm students satisfactory progress or identify any obstacles the student encounters.
6. Status checks including review of grades, attendance and status of remaining crime and drug free will be reviewed with the student and mentor on a quarterly basis.
7. The Florida Prepaid Foundation and FJJF reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship if selected recipient fails to remain crime and drug free, if his/her GPA falls below a cumulative 2.5 or if communication with the assigned mentor is not occurring at least monthly.
8. Recipients must submit to FJJF an official copy of their grades at the end of each semester and at least a 50-word progress report and identify any concerns or challenges the student has.



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9. Student signature indicates he/she has read the criteria and guidelines to receive the Florida Juvenile Justice STARS Scholarship and fully understands what is expected of him/her.

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation at [caroline.ray@dj.j.state.fl.us](mailto:caroline.ray@dj.j.state.fl.us) or [pat.tuthill@dj.j.state.fl.us](mailto:pat.tuthill@dj.j.state.fl.us) for any questions. When scholarships are awarded, recipients will receive instructions and addresses for providing required reports and updates.

Consumer Services (CH13275) and financial information may be obtained by calling toll free 1-800-435-7352 within the state or through an Internet search at <http://app1.800helpfla.com/giftgiversguide/>.

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.