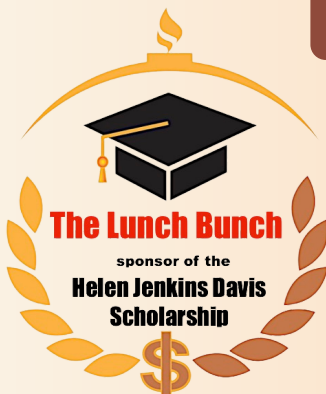




*Encouraging High
Scholastic and Ethical
Standards*

2026 HELEN JENKINS DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE MARCH 6, 2026



Visit our website

HELENJENKINSDAIVISSCHOLARSHIP.ORG

2026 HELEN JENKINS DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP

The Lunch Bunch was founded in 1986 by the late Thelma J. Givens and Catherine T. Willis. Our 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt status was secured in July of 2015. In 37 years of giving, the Lunch Bunch has recognized over 193 deserving Columbus City Schools' graduating senior scholars, with awards exceeding \$226,000.00.

Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarships are presented each year, in memory of Mrs. Helen Jenkins Davis, to outstanding Black/African American Columbus City Schools' graduating seniors demonstrating a financial need. Mrs. Davis was a strong, intelligent, and outspoken Black woman who fought for the rights of minority teachers and students. She loved children, and always encouraged her students to complete their education. Mrs. Davis believed all children were capable of achieving their goals and dreams.

Born in 1894 and a lifetime resident of Columbus, Ohio, Helen Jenkins Davis grew up on Spring Street, in an area that is presently part of Martin Luther King Drive. She was an active member of the Second Baptist Church and worked tirelessly on their 150th Anniversary committee.

Mrs. Davis graduated from the Columbus Normal School, in the top five percent of her class. She continued her education at The Ohio State University and Capital University. Because of discriminatory practices within the public educational system, she had to wait approximately two years before being appointed to teach in the Columbus Public Schools. One of her early assignments was at the Spring Street School, where Mrs. Davis was the first Black teacher in the first integrated Columbus Public School. Mrs. Davis brought her 36-year career to an end in 1952, at the age of 58.

In 1976, Mrs. Davis was a star witness in Judge Robert Duncan's Federal District Court, testifying in a discrimination lawsuit filed against the Columbus Public Schools. She spoke of the inequality of teacher assignments and the unequal distribution of books and supplies in schools that were predominantly Black.

Mrs. Davis is remembered for her love of children, strict discipline, and delightful sense of humor. There are those who remember her because she was their sphere of influence, encouraging them to complete their training and do things that make lives worthwhile.

Mrs. Helen Jenkins Davis died on June 27, 1987, at the age of 93.

CRITERIA:

THE SCHOLARSHIP:

- Six (6) scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$3,000 each
- Awards should be used for payment of educational expenses
- Proof of enrollment is **required** before any award is made



WHO MAY APPLY:

- Graduating seniors of Columbus City Schools in need
- Minimum Cumulative **Unweighted** GPA of 3.0 or higher
- **Must attend a 4 year accredited college or university in the Fall of 2026**

REQUIRED APPLICATION SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS:

- Completed application
- Provide an official transcript, signed by your **counselor and stamped with the official school seal**
- Provide a **FAFSA Student Aid Report**, indicating financial need
- ACT and/or SAT Scores – Label or Report Form - if applicable
- Two (2) **signed** Letters of Recommendation from a **School Administrator, Counselor, I Know I Can Counselor, School Teacher, Coach, Employer, or Clergy**
- College/University Acceptance Letter
- Applicant Bio
- Essay

PROCESS:

- Each application will be evaluated.
- Applications that do not meet all criteria will not be considered and applicant will be notified.
- Finalists will be selected.
- Finalists will be interviewed.
- Scholarship Recipient(s) will be notified.
- Scholarships will be awarded at an award event that may be virtual. **Scholarship recipients and parents/guardians are expected to attend the scholarship awards event.**

DEADLINE

All components of the Scholarship Application must be **received together, whether submitted electronically or mailed. If mailed, the application packet must be postmarked no later than **Friday, March 6, 2026**** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Mail application to:

**Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 360941
Columbus, OH 43236**

Online Applications with required documentation may be submitted via email to:

lunchbunchscholarship@gmail.com

IF PRINTED

PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN APPLICATION IS LEGIBLE

CHECKLIST

- ☐ *OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT*
- ☐ *FAFSA REPORT*
- ☐ *ACT/SAT*
- ☐ *ESSAY*
- ☐ *2 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION*
- ☐ *ACCEPTANCE LETTER*
- ☐ *PERSONAL BIO*

2026 HELEN JENKINS DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
(first, middle, last)

Birthdate: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Number of people in household _____

Contact: Telephone _____ Email _____

High School You Currently Attend: _____

Include All That Apply GPA _____ Class Rank: _____ ACT: _____ SAT _____

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS:

Athletics: _____

School Organizations or Offices Held: _____

Honors and Awards: _____

Community Involvement*: _____

Hobbies/Talents/Skills*: _____

Work/Volunteer Experience: _____

Are you currently taking college courses? Name of college_____

COLLEGE INFORMATION: Provide the name of the college/university that you plan to attend after graduation and intended major:

Name of School_____

City/State_____

Major_____

Enrollment Status - Check One _____Accepted _____Pending _____Enrolled

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN:

I certify that the information on this application and its supporting documents are complete. I understand that failure to fully complete this form, or misrepresentation or omission of facts, represents grounds for elimination from consideration for the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship, or termination after award if discovered at a later date. I understand that this document is NOT a guarantee of award and the completed application becomes the property of the Lunch Bunch, sponsor of the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship. If awarded, I understand that the Lunch Bunch may use information from my application package for marketing and advertisement purposes. I grant permission to use my name, comments, or photograph for public relations, advertising or any other lawful purposes, and I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished version(s) including written copy that may be created in conjunction therewith. I certify that all funds released by the Lunch Bunch will be used solely for paying educational expenses.

Applicant Signature:_____ Date: _____

Parent Signature is required for applicant under eighteen (18) years of age.

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attach additional page(s) as needed.

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Criteria:

- Include an introduction, main idea, developed paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Support with specific examples from research and/or personal experience
- To avoid plagiarism, give credit to your sources
- Use appropriate sentence structure, punctuation, correct spelling and grammar
- Type, 12 Point Font
- Single Space
- One inch margins (Top, Bottom, Right, Left)
- Two **FULL** pages

You are not to use any artificial intelligence or large-language programs (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, Grammarly, Co-Pilot, etc) to assist you with writing your essay. We value hearing your story in your own words.

ESSAY - please select one topic: 2026 ESSAY TOPICS

Tell us about a time where you stepped up as a leader. Provide clear examples of when you demonstrated leadership by taking on a leadership role.

The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.