

2026 Scholarship Awards

APPLICATION

FIRST DISTRICT MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Dr. Samuel Gibbs, Jr. President
Rev. Byron Johnson, General Secretary



Dr. Matthews McGary, Sr. Scholarship Foundation

Scholarship Applicants

Please observe the following important information:

- Scholarship Applications will be accepted Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 943 N. Toni Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, Rev. Rodney Baptiste, Pastor
- Make sure your application is complete.
- Bring **two copies** of your **completed** application.
- **Applicants must email an individual photo to kfcelestine@aol.com before submitting this application on Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

Evelyn F. Compton, Criteria Selection, Chairperson
(504) 214-5345

APPLICATION GUIDELINE SHEET

DUE DATE: SATURDAY, February 28, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE HAND DELIVERED TO:

Metropolitan Baptist Church
Rev. Rodney Baptiste, Pastor
943 N. Tonti Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

No application will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. on February 28, 2026

REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicant must be a member in good standing of a First District Church
- Applicant must be a graduating senior in the Class of 2026
- Recipients must be present at the Scholarship Awards Program Saturday, March 28, 2026
- The completed original application form and **ONE EXTRA COPY** must be submitted by **Saturday, February 28, 2026, no later than 2:00 p.m.**

The completed application form consists of the following:

- _____ Application Information Sheet
- _____ Educational Data Sheet
- _____ Pastor's Recommendation
- _____ First District Participation Sheet (if applicable)
- _____ One (1) Letter of Recommendation from one person who has known you for at least 2 years
- _____ Letter of Commitment signed by student and parent.
- _____ Personal essay (**one typed page essay**)
- _____ Official transcript
- _____ Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT or PSAT)

- Personal identification must be used on the Application Information Sheet only. (**Applicant's name may not be mentioned on any other form.**)

RESTRICTIONS:

- Scholarship recipients must use their scholarships only for expenses associated with their education, including tuition, books, room, board and transportation. Checks will be made out to the scholarship recipient.
- The applicant's name and church's name will be excluded from all applications on the first review.
- Any scholarship committee member who's relative (child, grandchild, niece, nephew, godchild, etc.) is an applicant will not be allowed to participate in the evaluation process of applications.
- Scholarship awards will only be made to graduating seniors who are members in good standing of a First District church.
- **Applicant must maintain membership in a First District church for continued renewal of the scholarship each subsequent semester.**

Application Guideline Sheet (Cont.)

- **Applicant must be a full-time student attending an accredited college or vocational school (Minimum 12 semester hours).**
- **Funds must be returned if applicant does not enroll as a full-time student (Min. 12hr.) in an accredited college or vocational technical school during the fall semester of the year during which the scholarship is awarded.**
- **Applicant must maintain a 2.0 average or above the first semester, as a full-time student, in order for the scholarship to be renewed for the second semester.**
- **Applicant must maintain a 2.5 average or above for each subsequent semester, as a full-time student, for continued renewal of the scholarship.**

**DUE DATE: Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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Rev. Rodney Baptiste, Pastor
943 N. Toni Street
New Orleans, LA 70119**

No application will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026

Ms. Evelyn F. Compton, Chairperson
Criteria Selection Committee
(504) 214-5345

Mrs. Gwendolyn R. Smith, Chairperson
First District Missionary Baptist Association Scholarship Foundation
(504) 457-1752 (Fax) (504) 861-0210

Application Information Sheet 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

FIRST DISTRICT MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Dr. Samuel Gibbs Jr., President

Rev. Byron Johnson, General Secretary

(ALL INFORMATION STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL)

APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please type or print legibly)

Name ____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Birth date _____

Church _____

Pastor _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

All major scholarship awards will be given in equal payments over a 4 year period at the beginning of each semester. Renewal each semester will be based on a review of grade reports and applicant's continued membership in a First District church. All other scholarship and incentive grant awards for \$500 or less will be given in two payments over one year. **In order to receive a scholarship check, the required documentation must be presented during the semester that the check is to be issued.**

DUE: SATURDAY, February 28, 2026, 2:00 PM
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EDUCATIONAL DATA SHEET

All items must be completed. Please type or print legibly.

High School _____

Address _____

City/State/Zipcode _____

Principal: **Dr. / Mr. /Mrs. /Ms.** _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____

Cumulative High School Grade Point Average (including first semester of 2025-2026 school year) _____ **(Official transcript must be attached)**

Your age _____

Intended Major _____

College or vocational school you plan to attend:

1st. Choice _____

2nd. Choice _____



PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Church _____

Pastor _____

This applicant has applied for a First District Scholarship. Based on your knowledge of the applicant, please provide the requested information. Please return this form to the applicant to be included with his/her application.

Applicant is a member of your church.

Please indicate the level of involvement of this applicant in your church
Please Circle one (10 being the highest)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Please list specific involvement in your church

Pastor's Signature _____

First District Participation Sheet

Recommendation from

Young People's Department
Sis. Joy Perez-Askin, Youth Director

Or

Laymen's Movement
Bro. Ronald J. Ray, President

Please indicate the level of involvement of this applicant in your department
Please Circle one (5 being the highest)

5 4 3 2 1

Please list specific involvement of applicant in this department:

Director's or President's Signature

Sis. Joy Perez-Askin or Bro. Ronald J. Ray

Letter of Recommendation

This applicant has applied for a First District Missionary Baptist Association Scholarship. Based on your knowledge of the applicant, please provide statements about the character of the applicant as well as your impression of his/her ability to succeed in a college or vocational program. Please return this letter of recommendation to the applicant. He/she will include it with his/her application. **Do not use the applicant's name in your statements. Use "he/him" or "she/her".**

Signature of Preparer

Date

Title

LETTER OF COMMITMENT

I, _____, the recipient of funds awarded through the First District Missionary Baptist Association's Dr. Matthews McGary, Sr. Scholarship Foundation, do hereby agree to return the total amount of funds received if I have not enrolled as a full-time student (min. 12 semester hours) in an accredited college or vocational technical school in the Fall Semester of the year during which the scholarship is awarded.

I understand that I must maintain a **2.0 average or above the first semester** in order for the scholarship to be renewed for the second semester. I also understand that I must maintain a **2.5 average or above for each subsequent semester for continued renewal of the scholarship thereafter. I also understand that I must remain a member in "good standing" of a First District church for continued renewal of the scholarship.**

In order to receive a scholarship check, the required documentation must be presented during the semester that the check is to be issued.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

PERSONAL ESSAY

(One Page)

Include in your essay any unusual family or personal circumstances, special needs, unique endeavors, or obstacles you have overcome that clearly describe your need for this scholarship. Also indicate any academic achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and/or leadership skills you feel are noteworthy. Then, tell why you believe a good education is vital and where you see yourself in two to four years. **Essay must be typed and double spaced on one sheet of 8½ x 11 paper. Essay is not to exceed one page. If your name or name of your church is mentioned, your essay will be eliminated.**