RISE Scholarship Parent Guide

The Able Trust's Road to Independence and Success in Education (RISE) Scholarship is a scholarship opportunity for eligible High School High Tech (HSHT) seniors. The goal is simple: to help HSHT students take the next step after high school with fewer financial barriers.

Important RISE Scholarship Dates

- October 1, 2026: Applications open
- February 26, 2027: Application deadline
- Week of March 29, 2027: Students notified
  - Students will be notified using the personal email address submitted on the RISE Scholarship application.

Three Applications Families Should Know About

- RISE Scholarship Application — The Able Trust Road to Independence and Success in Education Scholarship application for eligible HSHT seniors.
- FAFSA — The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is used to determine eligibility for federal aid and may also be required for other financial aid. Seniors can begin the FAFSA on October 1.
- FFAA — The Florida Financial Aid Application. It is used for Florida state scholarships and grants, including Bright Futures. Seniors can begin the FFAA on October 1.

Important: There is no limit to the number of scholarships a student can apply for. Applying for multiple scholarships increases the chances of finding aid that fits.

RISE Scholarship FAQs

What does the RISE Scholarship cover?

The RISE Scholarship is awarded as a 1-Year Florida College Plan through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. At a Florida public college, the plan is designed to cover up to 30 lower-division credit hours of tuition and specific fees. The value of the plan may also be used at eligible technical schools and other qualifying public or private postsecondary institutions. If the cost at the selected school is higher than the value of the plan, the student is responsible for the difference.

What does the RISE Scholarship not usually cover?

The RISE Scholarship is primarily a tuition/credit-hour benefit. Families should still plan for costs that may include books and supplies, housing, meals, transportation, parking, technology, course-specific materials, and other institutional fees that are not covered by the Prepaid plan.

What is Florida Prepaid?

Florida Prepaid is a program that pays eligible college costs using a prepaid education plan. RISE Scholarship recipients do not receive a cash award. The scholarship is placed into a Florida Prepaid College Plan for the student and the benefit is used toward eligible education costs.

How much is “one year of tuition”?

The RISE Scholarship is not a fixed cash amount. The benefit is a 1-Year Florida College Plan tied to up to 30 lower-division credit hours at a Florida public college. The dollar value used at another eligible institution depends on that school’s costs and how Florida Prepaid applies the plan value.

How will my student receive the RISE Scholarship money?

The scholarship is not paid directly to the student or family. Florida Prepaid benefits are applied toward eligible charges at the student’s postsecondary institution after the required enrollment and scholarship steps are completed.

Can my child use a RISE Scholarship with another scholarship, including Bright Futures?

Yes. A student may receive other scholarships in addition to the RISE Scholarship. Florida Prepaid recommends using the Prepaid scholarship benefit for eligible tuition/fees first when possible, because other scholarships may be able to help with costs such as books, housing, transportation, or other expenses.

Preparing to Apply for The Able Trust's Road to Independence and Success in Education (RISE) Scholarship

What should my student have ready before starting the RISE Scholarship application?

- A personal email address the student will keep after high school (do not rely only on a school email). Please do not allow them to use your email or phone number.
- Information on their high school activities and their participation in HSHT.
- Basic personal and contact information.
- Information about postsecondary plans and confirmation that they have applied to at least one Florida postsecondary institution. Acceptance to the postsecondary institution is not required to apply for the RISE Scholarship.
- Academic information, activities, leadership, volunteer experience, work experience, awards, and honors.
- A personal statement response or draft.
- A trusted adult (not a relative) who has agreed to serve as a reference, plus that person's contact information.

Why does the application ask for a headshot?

A headshot helps The Able Trust recognize and celebrate scholarship recipients in RISE Scholarship communications. Any public use of a student image should follow The Able Trust's applicable photo/permission requirements.

What will my student need if selected?

- Identification and proof of Florida residency as requested for the Florida Prepaid scholarship process.
- FAFSA or FFAA completion information as required to accept the scholarship.

College Accommodations and Disability Support

Does my child's IEP or 504 Plan automatically follow them to college?

No. The IEP process ends with high school, and a high school IEP or 504 Plan does not automatically transfer to college. Postsecondary schools must provide appropriate academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to qualified students with disabilities, but the student must request support and follow the college's process. An IEP or 504 Plan can be helpful background information, but a college may ask for additional documentation.

Who should my child contact about accommodations in college?

After admission, the student should contact the college's Disability Services, Student Accessibility, Accessibility Services, or similarly named office as early as possible. The student—not the parent or high school—is generally responsible for disclosing the disability, requesting accommodations, and providing any documentation the college requires.

Who do I contact if my student needs an accommodation to complete the RISE Scholarship application?

We want to ensure eligible students can access and complete the RISE application and if any assistance or accommodations are needed, contact Joey D'Souza at The Able Trust: joseph@abletrust.org or (850) 264-8019.

Who to Contact

RISE Scholarship Questions	General HSHT Questions
Joey D'Souza joseph@abletrust.org (850) 264-8019	Coleen Agner coleen@abletrust.org (850) 838-7110

Helpful Online Resources

RISE Scholarship information: abletrust.org/rise-scholarship
FAFSA: StudentAid.gov
Florida Financial Aid Application / Bright Futures: FloridaStudentFinancialAidSG.org
Florida Prepaid College Foundation: FloridaPrepaidCollegeFoundation.com

Your student will be creating a My Future Folder. Keep this document in that folder.