

## 2024 Miss Minnesota Scholarship Organization Scholarship Rules

Scholarships for contestants competing in the Miss Minnesota Competition are funded through the Minnesota Educational Scholarship Fund Inc., referred to in the rules as the MESFI. The Minnesota Educational Scholarship Fund, Inc is a separate stand-alone foundation that supports the Miss Minnesota Organization's education mission of providing quality scholarship assistance to young women in America. The Minnesota Educational Scholarship Fund Inc. is duly recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are fully tax-deductible by law.

### **EACH CONTESTANT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR THE YEAR 2024:**

1. Scholarship funds earned must be used within a one (1) year period. This period begins on June 14, 2024, and runs through June 14, 2025 (the "Eligibility Period"). Any scholarship funds not used within the Eligibility Period will revert to MESFI. **Per MAO rules, there are no extensions.**

This rule does not apply to the contestant who is selected Miss Minnesota. Following her crowning, the MMSO strongly encourages Miss Minnesota to withdraw from school and/or take a half year (1/2) leave of absence from work to fulfill her duties as Miss Minnesota. If not chosen as Miss America, she is allowed to go back to school or work until June when she gives up her title. She is allowed an additional one (1) year period in which to use her scholarship. Her scholarship funds will be held by the MESFI for her use as permitted by these rules.

2. Scholarship funds are available **for tuition** incurred in a course of study at an accredited college, university, or technical school and for payment of educational debt in Rule 4 below. **Scholarship funds may not, as a rule, be used for room and board, books, supplies, fees, utilities, or equipment.** Payment for current tuition will be made directly to the college, university, or technical school for the benefit of a contestant. **Funds can be paid directly to a contestant or parent with the appropriate and mandatory documentation.** Priority will be given to current tuition charges over educational debt. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to the MESFI with as much information as possible and far enough in advance for consideration of approval.

3. Scholarships may be used for outstanding student loan obligations provided the contestant has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a **current bill** from a bona fide third-party lending institution as recognized by the US Department of Education showing a **repayment address, student account number and amount due**, a copy of the promissory note showing that the contestant is the primary payer of the obligation, and an official transcript showing completion of the coursework. Payment will be made directly to the lending institution and credited to the student's account. **NOTE: All scholarship payments paid out to any outstanding student loan, the contestant whose loan the scholarship is being applied to will receive a 1099 tax form from MESFI.**

4. Because it is the intent of the MMSO to encourage young women to further their education, the MESFI will apply scholarship money toward educational debt, incurred within the last two years, for a contestant who has graduated from college and incurred the debt in a course of study at an accredited college, university, or technical school. The MESFI will disburse funds to the lender. **Funds can be paid directly to a contestant if appropriate and mandatory**

documentation is submitted, per MESFI Board approval.

5. To receive your scholarship funds, you must provide a letter stating that you are a student at the college or university, a transcript listing the courses that you are taking, and the amount of your tuition. You must attach to this letter a statement of your account for **that** semester, and a listing of the courses in which you are enrolled. Contestants must maintain at least 12 credit hours as a full-time student. This documentation must be sent to the MESFI and a check will be made payable to the respective schools only.
6. Requests for computer or musical equipment will be recommended only if the college or university states in writing that it is a mandatory requirement for the contestant to complete the coursework. There will, however, be a \$2000 cap on computer equipment, and this type of expense will be reimbursed only once. Computer software is not reimbursable. The original bill of sale must be submitted as well as the original credit card or a copy of the canceled check. All credit card accounts, and banking accounts must be in the name of the contestant to be considered.
7. If for reasons of academic ineligibility or disciplinary action resulting in your ineligibility to attend school, all scholarship funds, or any unused portion thereof, shall be returned to the MESFI.
8. The winner of a scholarship from a college, university, or other institution may accept an in-kind scholarship upon the terms as prescribed by the school. Neither the MMSO, nor the MESFI, has any control over these scholarships, other than to award them to the designated winner if she chooses to accept the same.
9. These scholarship rules do not necessarily apply to your local scholarship. Your local competition committee should have already given you a copy of their scholarship rules, and you should have already signed a copy of their rules indicating your understanding and receipt of the same.
10. If you withdraw from a class for which MESFI monies have been paid, and if any cash refund or credit is made, then those monies shall be returned to the MESFI. If a refund is made because a scholarship winner did not take or complete a course, those scholarship funds shall be returned to the MESFI and held for the contestant until such time as she issues proper documentation in a reapplication for scholarship monies, subject to the Eligibility Period.
11. A scholarship recipient will receive only the amount of scholarships that she is awarded during the week of the Miss Minnesota Competition. Should a runner-up succeed to the title of Miss Minnesota or succeed to any place higher than she originally finished according to the decisions of the judges of the Miss Minnesota Competition, she is still only eligible to receive the amount of scholarship money awarded to her during the Miss Minnesota Competition.
12. MESFI reserves the right to condition payment upon verification of use and authenticity.
13. If a scholarship recipient should die, then any unused portion of her award shall be returned to MESFI.
14. A letter will be issued to each award recipient designating the amount of scholarship awarded and incorporating these rules therein by August 1, 2024. The form must be submitted to the MESFI along with the proper information from the recipient's school before any scholarship money is paid.

15. A Scholarship recipient must use all the scholarship money that she won through her local competition prior to applying for the scholarship money that she won at the Miss Minnesota Competition. When all her local competition scholarship money has been paid, then her local competition director must send a letter to the MESFI certifying that the recipient has used all her local competition scholarship funds. Along with the letter, an official receipt from the college or university and a copy of the local competition's cancelled check must be submitted to the MESFI.
16. The following information must be submitted to the MESFI before it will pay any scholarship money:
- Properly executed Letter of Award of Educational Scholarship.
  - Letter from recipient's local competition director stating that the recipient has used all the scholarship money that she won at the local competition.
  - Copy of the local competition's canceled scholarship payment check.
  - Letter from the recipient's school:
    1. Stating that she a student at that school
    2. Stating that she is in good academic standing
    3. Containing a list of the courses in which the recipient is currently enrolled showing full-time student status.
    4. Stating the total amount of tuition due for the current semester or quarter.
    5. An itemized statement of account **in duplicate** of the amount of her tuition for the current semester or quarter

**Mail all correspondence to:**

Miss Minnesota Scholarship Organization  
Attn: Gina Cavanagh  
44768 Mosquito Heights Rd  
Perham, MN 56573

**OR Email to:**

[ginacavanagh@missminnesota.org](mailto:ginacavanagh@missminnesota.org)

(Signature page below)

# Minnesota

Educational Scholarship Fund, Inc.

PO Box 527  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

## MISS MINNESOTA SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIP RULES SIGNATURE PAGE

**Digitally sign below and upload THIS PAGE ONLY to website by April 6, 2024**  
**Local Director Signature also required**

I have received a copy of the foregoing "Scholarship Rules and Regulations," which was distributed at the 2024 Miss Minnesota Scholarship Organization contestant orientation meeting. It is my responsibility to maintain this information. I understand that on or about August 1, 2024, I will receive my Award Letter of Educational Scholarship and that the MESFI will not distribute a duplicate Award Letter of Educational Scholarship to me. I further understand that my failure to submit the required documentation as set forth above will result in my failure to receive my scholarship. I have read and I understand the foregoing Scholarship Rules and Regulations and I agree to abide by the same.

**Note: Scholarship is contingent upon availability of funds in any given year.**

**MESFI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND AND OR MODIFY THE FOREGOING SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE.**

----- Miss -----  
(Contestant Name - Print) (Title)

----- (Date) -----  
(Contestant "Digital" Signature)

----- (Date) -----  
(Local Director "digital" Signature)

*It is each contestant's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by the Minnesota Educational Scholarship Fund. Contestants are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.*