

A NEED-BASED PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL AID FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Outright grants are made to students who reside in the Great Neck School District and who plan to attend college or vocational school in the year following high school graduation. The Great Neck Student Aid Fund (GNSAF) is a community supported organization.

Financial need, not academic achievement, is the basis for the selection of recipients. Grants are available for meeting first year expenses of college or vocational school only. School choice is made by the student. Realism should be exercised since the financial burden will generally continue for four years. *Privacy is maintained in the consideration of awards. No public announcement of grant recipients is made.*

For each student, the measure of financial need in the determination of awards is a rigorous evaluation of the excess of first-year costs of the college or other school being attended over the funds available to the applicant. Awards are reserved for the neediest students with limited family resources, whose summer earnings, scholarships, grants, and school, federal and state aid are still insufficient to cover the cost of attending the critical first year of school.

To assure the greatest availability of all financial aid, the Fund requires that students apply for (i) Federal (FAFSA) aid; and (ii) financial aid from the schools to which they seek admission. In addition, students planning to attend New York State schools must also apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grant when applying for FAFSA.

If you are unable to complete a FAFSA application for any reason, advise your guidance counselor for further instructions as soon as possible.

Note that funds from Federal programs such as the Economic Opportunity Program (EOP), Pell Grants and Stafford Loans are administered through the colleges and will be reflected in the college financial aid package.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

In order to be considered for a grant an applicant *must*:

1. Be a legal resident of the Great Neck Union Free School District #7.
2. Complete a high school program.
3. Apply for admission to the colleges and/or vocational schools of the student's choice.
4. Make a formal and timely application to GNSAF at www.gnsaf.com and provide all required documentation.
5. Apply for Federal (FAFSA) aid and financial aid for all schools. Students attending New York State schools must also apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grant when applying for FAFSA.

REQUIRED STEPS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT

Deadline #1: March 15, 2026 — PRELIMINARY APPLICATION Deadline

Fill out and submit the Preliminary Application Form on our website: www.gnsaf.com

Deadline #2: March 30, 2026 — FAFSA Submission Deadline

➤ You must submit a 2026-2027 FAFSA application for federal student aid by 5/30/26 (if you are eligible to file for federal Financial Aid). Its purpose is to establish the financial need of the applicant and provide a confidential report to help guide schools/GNSAF in making its awards.

In addition, if you are considering attending a school within New York State you must also complete the NYS Tuition Assistance Program ("TAP") application provided with the FAFSA form.

If you are unable to complete a FAFSA application for any reason, advise your guidance counselor for further instructions as soon as possible.

Deadline #3: May 15, 2026 — Google Portal Document Upload Submission Deadline (document uploads required - link will be provided after application submission)

 Failure to upload ALL of the following required documents by 5/15/26 will result in an automatic withdrawal of your application.

- 1. signed, complete copy of your parent's/guardian's 2025 Federal Income Tax Return, including all attachments and schedules
- 2. *complete copy* of your FAFSA Submission Summary, which is generated in your FAFSA portal after you submit the FAFSA Application
- 3. copy of the Financial Aid letter you have received from the school you will be attending

Final award decisions are made by the Board of Directors of GNSAF which is usually by the end of July. Notification will be made by letter to the applicant as soon as possible thereafter.

Payment of the award will normally be made directly to the school in which the applicant is enrolled. Grants are awarded in two installments, Fall and Spring. Instructions on the procedure will be given to recipients with the letter notifying them of their award.

OBLIGATIONS OF AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Each recipient:

- Must enter the school of their choice within the first semester of the academic year following the granting of the award.
- Must notify GNSAF promptly if they decide not to attend the school as planned or to attend a different school.

