



## 2026 Definitions & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Definitions

**Merit-based aid** – Merit aid is a form of financial aid awarded to students based on their academic and/or extracurricular achievements rather than their financial need. Scholarships are the most common type of merit-based aid.

**Non-renewable aid** – A non-renewable scholarship is a scholarship that is only awarded for one academic year and is not eligible for renewal. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is not renewable.

**Post-secondary institution of education** – An institution offering any level of study beyond secondary school including colleges, universities or career technical schools.

**Accredited** – An accredited school is a college or university or career technical school (post-secondary school) that is recognized by an accrediting agency as conforming to a set of quality educational standards. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes several accrediting agencies.

**Not-for-profit** – A not-for-profit school does not exist for the purpose of making a profit. Public schools, schools supported by taxes and operated by a local government, and private schools, schools established, conducted and primarily supported by a nongovernmental agency, are considered “not for profit” schools. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship may be used at not-for-profit schools.

**For-profit (proprietary)** – A school that is owned, managed and run as a profit-making organization. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship may not be used at such a school.

**Full-time and part-time student status** – For the purposes the Brave Buffalo scholarship, a scholarship recipient must be enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of coursework by fall semester. The scholarship committee does not use the terms “full-time” and “part-time” to define student status.

**Active-duty military service** – Active duty means a service member’s job is full time, whether deployed overseas or domestically. Enrollment at a United States Military Academy (e.g. Air Force Academy), is considered active duty.

**Unweighted GPA** – Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) calculates the average grade on a 4.0 scale without regard to the difficulty of the coursework.

**Weighted GPA** – A weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) reflects grades *and* course level rigor. The weighted GPA uses a scale above 4.0 but varies from district to district.

**ACT cumulative score** – The average of the four subject scores from one ACT test attempt.

**ACT superscore** – The average of the best score from each of the four subjects from multiple ACT test attempts.

**Seven-semester high school transcript** – The transcript includes listed courses with grades and a cumulative GPA from both semesters of grades 9, 10 and 11 and the first semester of grade 12.

**Parchment** - An online transcript-by-request service used by Edmond Public Schools. The student places a request through the system and an official transcript is delivered directly to the destination email.

**Non-relative letter of recommendation** – A letter recommending the scholarship applicant from an individual who is not an immediate nor extended family member of the applicant. Letters often come from school staff, community organization contacts, employers or others who can attest to the applicant’s attributes and achievements firsthand.

## **FAQs**

### **Eligibility Requirement**

#### **Do I have to attend an Oklahoma college?**

No, you may attend academically accredited, not-for-profit institutions or career technical schools in the United States.

#### **Am I eligible to apply if I plan to enlist as a Reserve service member?**

No. To be eligible for the scholarship, you must have plans to enlist in active-duty (full-time) service in a branch of the United States Armed Forces. The Brave Buffalo scholarship requires this enlistment occur no later than fall 2026.

**May I apply for a scholarship if I don't know where I'll be going to school?**

Yes. If you don't know which school you're going to attend, you may still apply. You will be asked for your first-choice and second-choice schools and your status with those schools – applied, accepted, committed. To be awarded scholarship dollars, you must have a completed verification of enrollment from the post-secondary institution.

**May I apply for a scholarship if I have not decided on a branch of the military?**

Yes. The application provides opportunities to list your first-choice and second-choice branches and your status with those branches. To be awarded the scholarship dollars, you must have signed enlistment documentation and a date set for basic training.

**I don't have Straight A's. May I still be considered for a scholarship?**

Yes. The Brave Buffalo Scholarship requires a minimum unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.0 and does not have a minimum requirement for ACT or SAT scores. In addition to academic performance, the scholarship committee reviews areas of performance such as leadership, community service and other extra-curricular and work activities.

**I'm planning to go to career technical school. May I still apply for a scholarship?**

Yes. The Brave Buffalo scholarship may be applied to tuition and other educational expenses at career technical schools as defined by the scholarship committee. The scholarship committee does reserve the right to make reductions to the scholarship award amount in light of projected educational expenses.

**I plan to pursue a degree exclusively online. May I apply for a scholarship?**

Yes, but please read on. An online degree program does not disqualify an applicant so long as the degree-granting postsecondary institution is an accredited not-for-profit school. However, the scholarship committee places value on in-person time with faculty, networking with students and would like to see students engaged in predominantly in-person learning, realizing some courses may be offered online.

**I attended Centennial Elementary for a year or more, but it did not include my 5<sup>th</sup> grade year. May I still apply?**

Yes. The alumni scholarship is to be awarded to a Centennial student who attended two or more years at the school, with at least one year in 3rd-5th grades.

**Do I have to know my major to apply?**

No. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is not tied to a specific area of study. However, applicants will be given the opportunity to share field of study plans on the application.

## The Application Process

**May I save my application and finish it later?**

No. While a Google Form application will automatically save periodically while open on your computer screen, there is not a way to save, close, and return at a later time. The Committee recommends you be ready to start and finish the application in one session. You may review the [long-form questions](#) and word limits before beginning the application.

**If I need to edit my application, may I do so?**

Yes, if you save the editing link provided after submitting your Google Form application. Your save linked may be used up until the application deadline and will then no longer work.

**Will a copy of my application responses be provided to me?**

No. Due to the settings used for this Google Form application, a copy of your responses will not be emailed to you. If you would like to keep a copy of your responses, we recommend you print before submitting.

**May I give you a give you my transcript directly?**

No. Your transcript must come directly from your school. It is the scholarship committee's preference that students use *Parchment's* transcript-by-request system used by all Edmond high schools. If needed, a counselor or registrar may email the official transcript directly to [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org) Please be sure to request the transcript days or weeks - not hours – in advance of the scholarship deadline. A transcript received after the scholarship deadline – even if requested before the scholarship deadline – will not be accepted.

**In what format must I send the non-relative recommendation letter?**

A letter of recommendation must be a signed letter that is in a digital format. This may mean it was a hard copy then scanned or photographed, or in its original word processing document form or as PDF. It does not have to be addressed to the attention of the Buffalo Scholarship Committee. It may be submitted directly by the recommender or by the applicant. The scholarship committee highly recommends confirming that the Committee has received your letter if you do not submit it directly.

**May I fax or mail my application?**

Nothing may be submitted by fax or mail. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is an online Google Form application. The transcript and letter of recommendation may be emailed.

**May I send in part of my application after a scholarship's deadline has passed?**

No. Both the online application and emailed materials (transcript & recommendation letter)

must all be received by the deadline to be considered. The committee will not review partial applications and will not extend to the deadline for any reason. If you are having technical difficulties with your submission, please email [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org), or if needed, call Centennial Elementary at 405-340-2275.

## Application Review & Notifications/Awards

### **Who makes the award decisions?**

The Brave Buffalo Scholarship committee is comprised of current Centennial administrators, faculty and parents. These individuals read and evaluate each application based on the scholarship's guidelines.

### **Who funds this scholarship?**

The Parent-Teacher Organization, at the request of Centennial Administration, launched the Brave Buffalo scholarship in 2023 by designating privately donated PTO funds for a single \$1,000 scholarship. It is the intention of the PTO and Administration to continue this line-item designation in the PTO budget each year. The scholarship committee does reserve the right to make reductions to the scholarship award amount in light of projected educational expenses.

### **When will I find out if I've been awarded a scholarship and will you let me know if I have not?**

The scholarship recipient will be notified by phone and email (official award notification) on or before May 1. Applicants not receiving the scholarship will be emailed shortly thereafter. If you have not received an email in this timeframe, you may reach out to [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org).

### **What happens if I am selected as a scholarship recipient?**

The scholarship recipient will be given the date and time of the Centennial Elementary morning student assembly in early May to appear in person to receive the award and be celebrated by Centennial's students. An inability to attend will result in forfeiture of the award. The recipient's award notification email will include instructions on how to claim the award.

### **Do I need to pay scholarship money back?**

No. Scholarships are charitable grants that do not need to be paid back, provided they are used for the purpose stated in the scholarship award.

### **What expenses can the scholarship pay?**

Scholarship awards may go to the payment of educational expenses such as tuition, fees and books or in the case of military enlistment, toward expenses associated with training and/or military relocation.

### **If attending a post-secondary educational institution, when and how do I receive the check for my scholarship?**

Scholarship payments are made directly to the school financial aid office of the college,

university or career technical school where you enroll. Once your [Education Claim Form](#) providing verification of enrollment is received by the Centennial Scholarship Chair, the scholarship payment will be issued to the school by the Centennial PTO Treasurer. Note: Many schools wait until after the class add/drop period to apply your scholarship funds to your account.

**If enlisting in the Armed Services or enrolling at a US Armed Services Academy, when and how do I receive the check for my scholarship?**

The Centennial Scholarship Chair will work closely with the scholarship recipient on directing the location of the mailed check. Completion of the [Armed Forces Claim Form](#) is a requirement as well as receiving a copy of the scholarship recipient's official enlistment documentation.

**What if I change colleges after you sent my check to the previous school?**

Please contact your previous school's bursar's office immediately and have the check sent back to Centennial Elementary [4400 N. Coltrane Rd, Edmond OK 73034] and email the Centennial Scholarship Chair at [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org) to provide notification. We cannot process a check to your new school until we receive the funds from your previous school AND a new verification of enrollment form from you. The new school must be an accredited not-for-profit postsecondary institution.

**What if I don't enroll or enlist by fall of 2026? Do I give the scholarship back or may I get an extension?**

Immediately contact the Scholarship Chair at [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org) if this situation arises. The Centennial PTO must pay out the scholarship within the calendar year the award is made but may only do so if the recipient is enrolled and attending their selected school or has completed the enlistment process with their assigned Military Entrance Processing Station and has a ship date for basic training. The Scholarship Committee Chair, in collaboration with the school Principal and the PTO Board Chair, may choose to redistribute the scholarship to a runner-up scholarship if feasible.

**I received a scholarship and I'd like to send a thank you note. Where should I send my letter?**

Please send thank you letters to Centennial Elementary Scholarship Chair. The mailing address is 4400 N. Coltrane Rd, Edmond OK 73034.

**If I receive a scholarship one year, will I automatically receive an award for the following year?**

No. The Brave Buffalo scholarship is a one-time award made to an eligible high school senior. It is not a renewable scholarship.

**I have a question you didn't answer here. What should I do?**

Please contact our Scholarship Chair at [scholarships@centennialpto.org](mailto:scholarships@centennialpto.org)