

Farmers - Merchants Bank of Illinois Scholarship

This scholarship is administered by the PBL Education Foundation. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2023** and mailed in a 9x12 envelope to this address:

**PBL Education Foundation
Farmers - Merchants Bank of Illinois Scholarship
PO Box 192
Paxton, IL 60957**

Background

The Farmers-Merchants Bank of Illinois, with offices in Paxton and Melvin, has provided financial services to the area since 1914. In keeping with its tradition of community service and commitment to the education of future civic and business leaders, the Farmers - Merchants Bank of Illinois established an educational scholarship to be given annually beginning with the 1999-2000 school year. The award was established to assist a graduating high school senior living within the Paxton-Buckley-Loda or Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley school districts to continue his/her education beyond high school at a university, college, or trade/vocational school. The PBL Education Foundation will administer the application and selection process for the award of one \$8,000.00 scholarship, which will consist of up to four \$2,000.00 annual award payments made to the institution of higher education where the student is enrolled.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Eligible applicants include graduating high school senior students who are residents of either the Paxton-Buckley-Loda or Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley school districts, regardless of where they attend school.

Applicants must have maintained a minimum of a 3.0 (based on a 4.0) grade point average through the seventh semester of high school.

Applicants must plan to enroll full time at an accredited two or four-year college, university, or trade/vocational school. (Proof of enrollment will be required for release of scholarship payment after the award is announced.)

The recipient will be selected on the basis of three equally-weighted selection criteria:

1. Academic achievement as evidenced by grade point average (seventh semester), class rank, and test scores.
2. Participation and leadership in community, school, and work experience activities.
3. Written narrative essay.

Financial need will not be a criterion for selection.

To continue to receive annual \$2,000.00 scholarship installments, award winners must supply proof of “C” average or better while maintaining full-time student status and proof of continuing enrollment.

Application Procedures and Timeline

Applicants must submit an application form consisting of four parts: Cover Sheet/ Student Information, Academic Information, Extracurricular Activities and Essay.

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NOTE: Student’s name should ONLY appear in the first section (Cover Page/Student Information). A student identification number will be assigned by the Foundation Scholarship Committee.

The PBL Education Foundation Scholarship Committee (including four members appointed by and representing the PBL Education Foundation and GCMS Education Foundation) will evaluate finalist applications. The PBL Education Foundation will announce and make the scholarship award in May at a public presentation.

Academic Information

Student ID Number: *(leave blank; to be assigned by Scholarship Committee)* _____

Percentile Ranking in Class: _____

Grade Point Average (7th semester) on 4.0 scale: _____

SAT Composite Score: _____

High School Counselor/Administrator's Signature and Certification of Academic Information: _____

Extracurricular Activities

Student ID Number: *(leave blank; to be assigned by Scholarship Committee)* _____

Attach information about your participation in extracurricular activities. Use the following headings: clubs and organizations, athletics, honors and awards, community service, and work experience. Please be specific about offices and leadership positions held and years of participation. Under work experience, include the place of employment, your position, your supervisor and the dates of your employment. PLEASE TYPE.

Essay

Student ID Number: *(leave blank; to be assigned by Scholarship Committee)* _____

All students applying for this scholarship must submit a **typed** essay on the following topic:

“Select an individual who has influenced who you are. Explain what characteristics this person possesses that you want to emulate.”

Attach the essay to your application.