



## 2018-19 Paula E. Waters Diamond in the Rough Scholarship Program

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### Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this award, you must:

- be a high school senior.
- be an African-American male.
- have a cumulative GPA between 2.0 and 2.99 (un-weighted, based on a 4-point scale).
- be attending:
  - any public or charter school in Montgomery or Prince George's County, Maryland;
  - any public or charter school in the District of Columbia;
  - any public or charter school in Arlington County, Fairfax Country, Alexandria or Falls Church, Virginia; or,
  - Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

*No exceptions will be made.*

### When is the application deadline?

May 25, 2018 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time Zone

### What is the Program timeline?

- Application Opens: February 15, 2018
- Application Deadline: May 25, 2018
- Scholarship Recipients Notified: June 20, 2018
- Scholarship Checks Issued: August 1, 2018

### What are the selection criteria?

An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the recipients considering:

- Community involvement and extracurricular activities
- Essay content

*Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.*

### What are the details of the award?

- Three (3) one-time scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each.
- The scholarships can be applied to tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load at accredited, nonprofit colleges, universities, or vocational/trade schools in the United States.
- Students may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award.

### Is this scholarship renewable?

No.

### Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?

You should list your first choice on the application.

### How do I change my college choice?

You may update your final school choice on the **My Profile** page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make sure your college is updated at least 30 days prior to the check issue date stated in the award notification so your check can be issued accordingly. This will not update any application or acceptance forms; however, all awards are issued based on the **My Profile** page.

### How do I know if my application is complete?

Allow five to seven business days after uploading documents for your online status to update. You may monitor the status of your application on your home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>.

- **Started:** items are needed or are being processed. To see the items, click the grey or yellow 'Started' tile next to the application title. This will open another box listing all required items and the current status of each.
- **Complete:** all required forms and attachments (if applicable) have been received and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor the progress of all application requirements to make sure the application is complete. The status **Complete** will display on the home page when all forms have been submitted and all documents have been verified.

### How and when will I receive notification?

- Notifications are sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **via email** by the end of June. For recipients, an **Acceptance** link will be displayed on the home page following the notification.
- Add [donotreply@applyISTS.com](mailto:donotreply@applyISTS.com) and [contactus@applyISTS.com](mailto:contactus@applyISTS.com) to your email address book or "safe senders list" to ensure these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
- **Do not 'opt out' of any email sent from donotreply@applyISTS.com or contactus@applyISTS.com. You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.**

*Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third parties.*



**What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?**

You must enroll as a full-time freshman/first-year student in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by the scholarship sponsor, deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution, and notify ISTS should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

**How and when are checks issued?**

Checks will be issued in early August to each recipient's mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

**Are scholarships taxable?**

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance. You may also [click here](#) to consult IRS Publication 970 for further information.

**Program Administration**

To ensure complete impartiality in selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

**Questions**

For additional information regarding the scholarship program, [click here](#) or call toll free (855) 670-ISTS (4787). Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central.

