

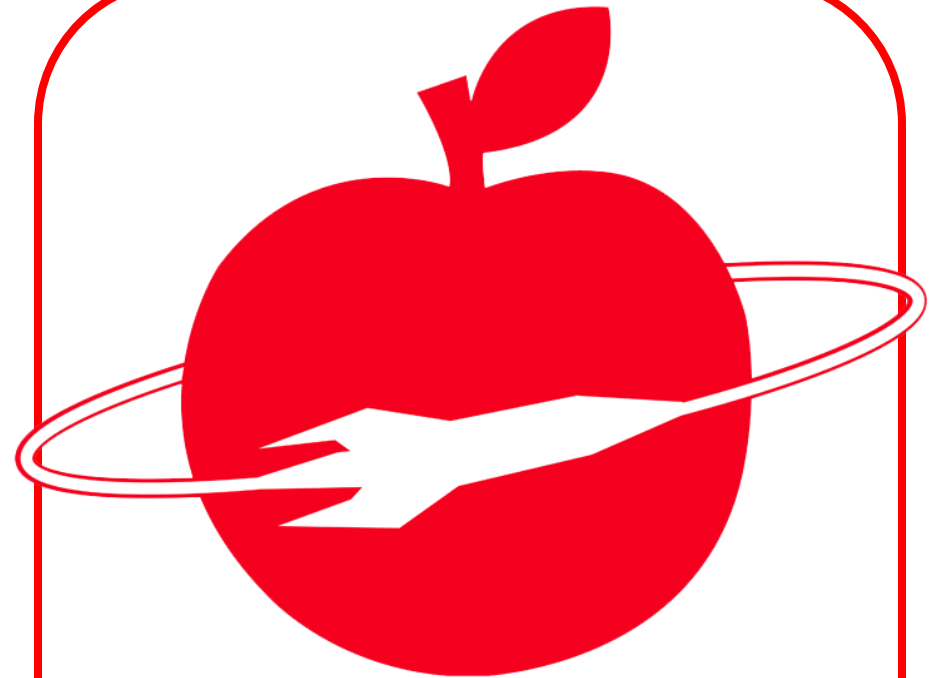
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Find Us On:



Rocket City SGO

**Student Handbook
2018-19 School Year**

Welcome To Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization

Rocket City Scholarship (RCSGO) believes that children have differing needs and learning styles when it comes to education. Often these can be addressed at the local school level. Sometimes, however, it is necessary for a student to transition to a new environment in order to thrive. We have partnered with private schools in the Tennessee Valley in order to bring this access to children locally. We want each child to reach his or her potential and launch their educational futures. This is the mission of RCSGO.

Who is Eligible?

RCSGO functions within the authority of the Alabama Accountability Act (AAA). Students K-12 are eligible to apply as long as each applicant meets the eligibility requirements. The AAA designates the priority given to different categories of students. **ALL** students must meet the income eligibility requirements and provide proof of income verification. Applicant's gross annual income must not exceed a certain limit based on household size.

Students who are zoned to a "failing" public school as designated annually by the Alabama State Department of Education are given priority **IF** these students also meet the income eligibility requirements. Please note that all application requirements are subject to the legislation of the Alabama Accountability Act and the Department of Revenue, and therefore may be subject to change. RCSGO does not determine the policy regarding eligibility.

Application Procedures

The AAA defines a **family** as "a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption, including foster care, who reside together." A parent or guardian may

If you would like to receive newsletter updates from RCSGO, please provide a current email address and we will add you to our database through MailChimp. If you provided an email address on your student application, then you have already been added to our newsletter database and should be receiving information from us. If not, and you would like to be included, please contact us at info@rocketsgo.org

PARENT/GUARDIAN: By completing the Rocket City SGO Scholarship Application, you are agreeing to the following:

- You have read and understand that all the information you provide on this application, all legal proof of income and all future information you may provide is true, accurate and complete, to the best of your knowledge.
- You understand that the information submitted will be verified.
- You understand any incomplete, missing, false or fraudulent information or documentation, including signatures or refusal to provide legal and adequate proof of income or any other information required for Rocket City SGO to make a determination of scholarship eligibility will be cause for automatic determination of ineligibility.
- You understand that based on the AAA, the applicant parent/guardian must reside with the applying student. Rocket City will look at all the people who live in the applicant's household and all the income that is derived from the people who live in the household.
- You understand if you provide information that is not true or if you fail to provide information and your child (children) receives a scholarship, it will result in the loss of the scholarship.

Updates

It is very important that RCSGO can reach a parent or guardian at any time. Please be sure to submit a physical address including any apartment or unit #, a valid email address (if you have one) and at least one contact phone number. If at any time this information changes during the course of the school year, please contact us to update the information. If RCSGO is unable to reach a parent about documentation or eligibility during the application process, your student application may be placed on hold and processing suspended.

apply for the student whether related by birth, marriage, adoption, or foster care as long as the applying adult and student reside together. Custodial documentation must be supplied. Each family must verify annual household income for the previous calendar year at the time of application. This includes all income derived from all people who live in the household. These sources of income include, but are not limited to the following:

- Alabama Income Tax Filings
- Federal Income Tax Filings
- Form 40
- W2
- Social Security Income/Disability for every household member including children
- Child Support payments
- All other non-taxable/taxable income

Applicants must also complete verification of household members. Completion of this process is the responsibility of the parent/guardian, not of the qualifying partner school. No application will be accepted if any portion of it is incomplete or all the supporting documents have not been provided. Deadline is April 15, 2019. No application will be accepted or considered after this date. Scholarships are always dependent upon the availability of funding and the continuation of the AAA.

The parent or guardian applying for the scholarship must certify that he or she has completely and accurately provided all required information and that the reported household size, income and all other statements related to eligibility are true. Misrepresentation of this information or failure to provide all substantiating documentation may result in the refusal or revocation of a scholarship. RCSGO has the right to verify any or all information or documentation provided through the application process.

Selecting a Qualifying Partner School

RCSGO's website, www.rocketsgo.org, contains a list of all the qualifying partner schools that accept scholarships through the AAA. RCSGO allows the parent and student to select their school of choice. However, the student must be accepted by the school before submitting an application. An official acceptance letter from the school must be included with the application. The application will then need to be completed by the parent/guardian AND the partner school with the school submitting the application to RCSGO during the open application season of April 1-15, 2019.

Scholarship Coverage

RCSGO scholarships cover one academic year, including tuition and mandatory fees for one academic year OR for the time a student attends a partner school, whichever is later. RCSGO is not responsible for any fees incurred outside the mandatory fees listed on the school website, or fees incurred before the scholarship is granted. Each partner school must fill out the application portion which delineates all tuition and mandatory fees. RCSGO will pay **up to** the following amounts:

Elementary students K-5 up to \$6,000.00
Middle School students 6-8 up to \$8,000.00
High School students 9-12 up to \$10,000.00

amounts may vary

All financial obligations incurred at a school beyond the awarded amount or for items not covered by the scholarship are the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The qualifying partner schools shall provide a list of tuition and fees covered by the scholarship and any additional costs not covered, if any, that would be the obligation of the parent/guardian to cover personally.

Scholarship Payment

Scholarship payment is directed to the schools, not the students. No payment will be made to the student at any time.

Requirements of the Student

All scholarship students are required to follow the academic and conduct policies of their respective partner school. Each partner school has the right to enact discipline, including suspension or expulsion, against students who fail to comply. RCSGO has no authority to govern school policies regarding academic and disciplinary issues. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to carefully review these school policies to ensure that your student continues to remain enrolled at the partner school, and therefore, eligible for the scholarship. Any expulsion from a partner school or the inability to be admitted to another partner school may result in loss of scholarship for the year and future years.

School Withdrawal

If circumstances require that a student withdraw from the partner school and/or the scholarship program, the parent/guardian must submit to RCSGO a completed withdrawal form within 3 business days of withdrawal. The Withdrawal Form is available on our website at www.rocketsgo.org

Transfer to Another Partner School

All scholarships awarded by RCSGO are transferable from one partner school to another. The student must first be accepted by the school to which the student wants to transfer. An acceptance letter from the new school must accompany the withdrawal form and the transfer form. The acceptance letter, withdrawal form and transfer form must be submitted to Rocket City SGO within 3 business days of the transfer. No transfers will be allowed to occur after February 1. The Transfer Form is available on our website at www.rocketsgo.org