2027
Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program: Vocational/CTE Scholarship Guidelines

Important Dates to Remember

December 1, 2026	Online Application Available
January 19, 2027 – 7:59 PM	Online Application Closes
January 25, 2027 – 4:59 PM	School Official and CEA/AST Submissions Close
April/May 2027	Recipient selection notification
July 17, 2027	Scholarship Recipient Celebration

HILDEBRAND RURAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM VOCATIONAL/CTE SCHOLARSHIP

In 2027, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ (the "Show") will award up to $6,000 Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program Vocational/CTE Scholarships to outstanding 4-H and/or FFA members exclusively from rural communities across Texas and who meet all eligibility requirements.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's educational programs are a significant part of the Show's goals of benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. All recipients of Show scholarships must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership, and financial need, and they must attend a Texas school.

Recipients of the Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program Vocational/CTE Scholarship must attend an accredited Texas trade school program or junior college in pursuit of an Associate's Degree or certificate in a vocational field. Scholarships will be awarded to a maximum award of $6,000 towards tuition, fees, and approved tools/supplies required for program completion.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, the scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, appropriate proof of citizenship must be furnished (i.e. a copy of the photo page of a valid U. S. passport, a copy of Naturalization Certificate or a birth certificate for U. S. Citizen Born Abroad). Applications submitted without proof of citizenship will not be considered. Students with permanent resident status are not eligible to apply.
2. Be a Texas resident.
3. Attend a public, private, charter, or accredited home school.
4. Be a graduating senior in the 2026-2027 school year.
5. Be a current Texas 4-H or Texas FFA member. (CEA or AST to confirm membership.)
6. Have a calculated SAI of 35000 or less per the student's FAFSA Submission Summary.
7. Make their home residence on a farm/ranch, or in a Texas city with a population of less than 10,000 per the most recently available census data.
8. Meet GPA requirement of minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA (on an unweighted 4.0 scale) at the completion of the first semester (Fall 2026) of senior year. School official to provide verification of GPA.
9. Have made formal application to enroll with intent to attend an accredited Texas trade school or junior college and participate in a curriculum leading to an associate's degree or a certificate in a vocational field. Strictly online colleges and universities, even if they are not-for-profit, are not permitted.
10. Student may not apply to the Hildebrand Rural Scholars 4-Year Scholarship program or any other HLSR 4-Year Scholarship application.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application Process:
    a. Part 1 – Consists of completing the online application prior to the given deadline
    b. Part 2 – Submission of School Official information prior to given deadline

2. Hildebrand Vocational/CTE Rural Scholars Program applications are only available online through the Show's website, www.rodeohouston.com, under the Scholarships and Grants area.

3. Applicants are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit a copy of their FAFSA Submission Summary, with SAI (Student Aid Index) which is obtained once the FAFSA is accepted. The full FAFSA Submission Summary is required. Please note that it takes at least one week after submitting the application for you to receive the report. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT FAFSA REPORTS THAT SAY "ESTIMATED STUDENT AID INDEX."
4.

5. Students who receive last-dollar or full-ride scholarships or funding from other scholarship providers or colleges/trade schools do not qualify for the Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program. If selected to receive a Show scholarship, the applicant must provide verification of all other financial aid, grants or scholarships received. The scholarship award is not confirmed without such verification and failure to completely disclose all financial aid, or other scholarships shall deem the applicant ineligible to receive the scholarship award.

6. All required documentation will be uploaded during the application completion process. All documents must be submitted via the online application. No paper documents will be accepted. **Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted! There are no changes to submitted applications.**

7. Applicants are required to provide a school official's contact information for Part 2 of the application. The school official must be able to provide the applicant's GPA and official transcript. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm that the school official listed can provide the required information by the stated guidelines. After submission, there are no changes to applications, including updating or changing information for the school official.

8. Applicants are required to provide their County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher's contact information for Part 2 of the application. The CEA or AST must confirm your membership in Texas 4-H or Texas FFA.

9. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo recognizes the value of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in content creation and grammar checking. In partnership with Kaleidoscope, a scholarship administration partner, AI Detection and Plagiarism Checker tools are utilized with 99.12% accuracy. Consequently, any essays submitted as part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Application that contain **65% or more generative AI content will be disqualified** from the judging process and will not be considered for scholarship awards.

10. Students applying for HLSR Vocational/CTE scholarships are not permitted to apply for HLSR Four-Year scholarships but may apply for other HLSR Vocational/CTE scholarships for which they are eligible. Scholarship recipients may only be awarded one scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES

It is the sole responsibility of each applicant and their parent/guardian to be aware of all dates and deadlines.

The Show will not accept or consider any incomplete or late applications. No exceptions will be made. There are no changes to submitted applications.

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EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of judges selected by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Incomplete and non-qualifying applications will not be considered. Each application is scored based on academic achievement, high school leadership, activities, awards, community involvement, work experience, and financial need.

NOTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS

Final approval and notification of each scholarship recipient will be made by the Show's Office of Educational Programs by the end of May 2027. Notifications are made via email.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recipients will be expected to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Celebration to be held in Houston on July 17, 2027.

Applications and all documents will not be returned and become property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has the right to refuse and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging, awarding or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, non-factual and incorrect information provided in the application or failure to meet any of the requirements.