

MISS PEARL BIRMINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES



I. The Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund was established in 1947 by T. F. Birmingham of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to comply with a request by his sister, Pearl Birmingham, who died in 1946. In her will, Pearl Birmingham left 1,000 shares of common stock in the Standard Oil Company of Ohio to support the scholarship fund.

II. The income for the Miss Pearl Birmingham scholarships is currently provided by the interest earned from a trust fund created by the sale of the oil stock, which is in excess of \$2 million. The Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund and guidelines are managed by the Wylie ISD Board of Trustees.

III. The number of scholarships and the amounts for scholarships are determined annually by the Wylie ISD Board of Trustees. This information will be provided to the high schools each year no later than August 1.

Each Wylie ISD high school will award an equal number of scholarships.

The annual scholarship awards will be as follows:

3 - \$7,500 scholarships at each high school (6 total)	\$45,000
7 - \$5,000 scholarships at each high school (14 total)	70,000
Total	\$115,000

There will be no proration of the number of scholarships between high schools.

NOTE: If the market value of the Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund drops below \$2 million for the months of April, May, and June, the scholarships will all be reduced 20% for the year after next. (i.e., 3 - \$6,000 and 7 - \$4,000 scholarships at each campus) (i.e., If the scholarship fund falls below \$2 million for April, May, and June of 2020, the scholarships will be reduced by 20% for the 2021-22 school year)

Scholarships will return to \$7,500 and \$5,000 when the market value of the Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund is \$2.2 million or greater for the months of April, May, and June.

If the market value of the Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund is \$3 million or greater, the Birmingham Scholarship Sub Committee, comprised of Wylie ISD Trustees, will reconvene to consider additional or larger scholarships.

IV. The following guidelines will be used in determining a student's eligibility to apply for the scholarship.

- The student must be ranked in the top 10% of his/her class.
- The student must be of good moral character. The status of good moral character will be determined by the Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Committee who may consider discipline records, DAEP placement, school attendance, and other relevant academic records for the student's senior year.
- The student must be a graduate of Wylie High School or Wylie East High School.
- The student must have completed four years of high school in a Wylie ISD school.
- The student must take either the ACT or SAT. Scores must be received by March of the senior year.
- A preapproved list of virtual courses/providers will be provided by the Wylie ISD Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Committee prior to students enrolling in this type of course. The preapproved list will be published on the High School Academic Planning Guide in the spring prior to student enrollment for the upcoming academic year. The current preapproved list of virtual courses/providers are Texas Virtual School Network, Edgenuity, UT High School, and TTU K-12. In accordance with WISD guidelines, student must have prior administrative approval before enrolling in these courses.
- The number of students eligible to apply for the scholarships will be limited to the top ten academically ranked students from each high school who meet the guidelines above. The academic ranking which will be used for the Birmingham Scholarship eligibility will be calculated at the end of the third nine weeks prior to the student's graduation.
 - In case of a tie in weighted GPAs after calculation to the fourth decimal place, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as a Birmingham Scholar:
 - Count the number of Tier I courses taken by each student involved in the tie.
 - Calculate an unweighted numerical grade average for each student involved in the tie using only eligible grades earned in the four semesters immediately preceding graduation.

V. Selection of scholarship winners will be based on the following:

- The student's academic ranking/GPA (35%)
- The student's SAT or ACT scores (35%)
- Submission of an autobiography by the student (10%)
- A personal interview with school superintendents or their representatives from a school district in each of the following counties: Collin, Dallas and Rockwall (20%)

VI. Interview Process

- There will be one interview committee comprised of school superintendents or their representatives for the purpose of interviewing and ranking the eligible students from each high school campus. The interviews will be conducted at the Wylie ISD Educational Service Center on the same day.

- The Superintendent of Wylie ISD or his/her designee will select the members of the interview committee. The interview committee will represent Collin, Dallas, and Rockwall counties.
- The superintendent of Wylie ISD will not serve on the Birmingham Scholarship interview committee.
- The judges will rank all applicants from each high school one through the ten, with the top three (3) receiving a \$7,500 scholarship each, and the next seven (7) receiving a \$5,000 scholarship each. All ten students receiving scholarships will be recognized as Birmingham Scholars. The decision of the judges will be final.
- There will be one Birmingham Scholars Banquet honoring the awardees. The Superintendent of Wylie ISD or his/her designee will select the site and make the arrangements for the banquet.

VII. Implementation of the Scholarships - A committee of Wylie ISD faculty/staff will oversee the administrative guidelines to ensure that the scholarship procedures are followed after the scholarships have been awarded. The District Birmingham Scholarship committee will be chaired by the Superintendent (or his/her designee). In addition, the committee will be comprised of an administrator from each high school campus and two central office administrators.

VIII. The student receiving the scholarship must initiate the award by enrolling as a full-time student at an accredited college or university of his/her choice during the fall semester following his/her graduation from high school. Fulltime enrollment is considered a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours. The student receiving the scholarship must provide official documentation from the college or university verifying that he/she is enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours. **This official documentation should be presented to the scholarship committee no later than October 1 of the fall semester.** All official documentation provided to the committee must be legible. The district Birmingham Scholarship committee will make the final determination regarding what constitutes official documentation.

The scholarships will be distributed as follows:

- \$7,500 scholarships - \$1,875 each semester for two years. No payments will be made for summer semesters or mini semesters.
- \$5,000 scholarships - \$1,250 each semester for two years. No payments will be made for summer semesters or mini semesters.

IX. To remain eligible for the scholarship, the recipient must continue to be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree and must provide official documentation from the college or university verifying that he/she is enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours for the fall semester and 12 semester hours for the spring semester. The official documentation should be received by October 1 for fall payment and by March 1 for spring payment. All official documentation provided to the committee must be legible.

The recipient must pass a minimum of nine {9} semester hours with a C grade average for the fall semester and must pass a minimum of nine {9} semester hours with a C grade average for the spring semester. The recipient must submit an official copy of grades at the end of the fall semester and again at the end of the spring semester to the Wylie ISD Birmingham Scholarship Committee. The official copy of grades must be received by October 1 for fall payment and by March 1 for spring payment. All official documentation provided to the District Birmingham Scholarship committee must be legible.

The Miss Pearl Birmingham scholarship recipients who fail to provide the proper documentation by the stated timelines will forfeit the scholarship. The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Birmingham scholarship fund.

Short semesters (mini-semesters -- Examples: January Term or May Term) and/or summer semesters may not be combined with long semesters or with each other to meet enrollment or grade requirements to maintain eligibility.

X. A student receiving a bachelor's degree before the allotted two years and desiring to continue college work for a master's degree is eligible to receive the remainder of the scholarship (if the student begins master's work in the next available semester).

XI. Any person accepting the scholarship, and then dropping out of school for reasons other than a disabling condition as determined by a physician, serving in the military, or serving a required term of missionary work, would forfeit the remainder of the scholarship. A student dropping out of school as described above will be expected to resume classes at the beginning of the first regular full-length semester. The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund. If a student fails to initiate the scholarship or fails to completely utilize the scholarship for any reason other than those mentioned above, the remaining scholarship funds will be returned to the general Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund.

XII. The Wylie ISD Birmingham Scholarship Committee as described in Section VI will administer the Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Administrative Guidelines. Any requests to defer scholarship payment or waive any of the above requirements due to extenuating circumstances must be made in writing and be approved by at least 2/3 of Birmingham Scholarship Committee. The committee may ask for official documentation from the university or family to support any such requests. These requests and supporting documentation must be received by October 1 for fall payment and by March 1 for spring payment. Requests approved by at least 2/3 of the Birmingham Committee will be submitted to the Superintendent for Board approval.

XIII. Forfeiture of the scholarship is final. The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund.