

## **High School Scholarship Program FAQ (updated September 2005)**

### **1. Why is OCEF developing a high school scholarship program if high school education is currently not required in China?**

High school education is not compulsory yet in China, but we believe it is just as important as elementary and middle school education. It is a crucial step for attaining higher education, and for improving moral character. In the past ten years, China has increased investment towards higher education, and has proposed policies to decrease or eliminate tuition.

### **2. Which high schools are eligible for aid?**

OCEF's High School Scholarship Project provides financial aid for students from regular high schools, vocational high schools, specialized high schools, and other schools between the middle school (junior high) and college levels.

### **3. Which regions benefit from OCEF's High School Financial Aid Project?**

OCEF primarily aids high school students who reside in the most impoverished rural areas of China. 70% of OCEF-aided high school students live within the 592 state-designated impoverished areas. The remaining 30% live within non-state-designated impoverished areas.

### **4. Who can apply for financial aid?**

- a. middle school students who have been accepted by their respective high schools as well as current high school students
- b. students in extreme financial difficulties, who face the possibility of quitting school or who have already taken leave from school
- c. students who have tried other ways of attaining financial aid (via government, Education Department, their current school, or other organizations) but have not been successful.
- d. students who have good academic records, special talents or the potential to succeed.

For high school students only:

Student's financial circumstances and academic performance (grades and potential for improvement) have proportionate influence, 70% and 30%, respectively, on OCEF's final decision of approval.

### **5. How does OCEF find applicants who are qualified for scholarship?**

OCEF relies on local coordinators and inspectors to understand students' financial circumstances.

## **6. How much scholarship do high school students receive?**

OCEF will provide scholarship to high school students according to the following procedures:

- a. OCEF coordinators are responsible for negotiating with school administrations for a reduction in tuition and miscellaneous fees for potential financial aid recipients. OCEF will then provide students with financial aid to cover 50% to 70% of education expenses (tuition, lodging, etc.). For example, where education expenses exceed 3,000 RMB per year, each financially aided student will receive 2,000 RMB per year. In cases where the education expenses fall within the range of 2,000 to 3,000 RMB, OCEF will fund 1,500 RMB per student per year. If expenses total less than 2,000 RMB per year, OCEF will fund each student 1,000 RMB or the full amount, whichever one is less.
- b. If the school agrees to exempt certain students from education expenses, OCEF will provide for the cost of the students' living expenses appropriate to the standard of living in the area. This form of subsidy will not exceed 1,200 RMB per student per year.
- c. In special cases, the China Affairs Subcommittee will provide additional aid. However, financial aid for special cases cannot exceed 5% of the total aid distributed to high school students in that year.

## **7. How do students apply?**

Students can apply after they have been recommended by OCEF volunteers, coordinators or inspectors. Students must provide the following materials and information:

- a. The applicant, a recommender from OCEF, the school representative, and the local representative must complete the High School Student Scholarship Application Form (HS-101)
- b. Applicants must submit a copy of their high school entrance examination scores and admission letters. Current high school students must submit a copy of their student ID and a copy of their report cards from the most recent academic year.
- c. Applicants must also provide proof of tuition and living expenses.
- d. Applicants are required to write an essay. The topic will be given by OCEF.

## **8. What information must the applicant provide?**

Written information:

- a. about the applicant: Applicant's name, gender, birth date, home address, school name and address, high school admission letter (or the most recent report card for current high school students), proof of tuition and living expenses, and applicant's personal statement .
- b. about the applicant's family: the names of family members, their relation to the applicant, their ages, employment status, and information on their health.
- c. about the applicant's financial circumstances: family earnings and expenses, whether the student is receiving other sources of financial aid, and an explanation for the student's inability to continue his/her studies.
- d. coordinator's personal comments based on information provided by the student, and suggestions on whether OCEF should fund the particular applicant
- e. A \*photo of the applicant and applicant's family with the local OCEF coordinator in front of the applicant's residence. The photo must show the entire residence.
- f. Try to represent as accurately as possible the economic circumstances of the applicant by taking pictures of the interior of the residence.

\*To save memory space on our computers, applicants are encouraged to take group pictures and to use lower camera resolution.

### **9. Must the approved applicant reapply every year? What additional materials should the applicant provide?**

If the applicant's financial circumstances have not improved and if the applicant's academic performance remains satisfactory by OCEF standards, OCEF will continue to aid the student throughout his/her entire high school career. However, each student must reapply to OCEF every year and provide the following materials:

- a. The applicant, a recommender from OCEF, the school representative, and the local representative must fill out the High School Student Scholarship Application Form (HS-101). The student must indicate on the form that he/she is reapplying for aid.
- b. a copy of the applicant's most recent report card
- c. proof of tuition and living expenses

Scholarship extensions must be sent each year to OCEF before the 31st of July.

### **10. How do students submit their applications?**

The student may send his/her application via email to [highschool@ocef.org](mailto:highschool@ocef.org) or turn it in to his/her school. The school will send it to the following address:

Shanghai Postal Box# 002-020, Zip Code: 200002

### **11. Who is qualified to apply?**

Student's financial circumstances and academic performance (grades and potential for improvement) have proportionate influences, 70% and 30%, respectively, on OCEF's final decision of approval. OCEF will give priority to previously sponsored middle school students who have been accepted to high school.

## **12. How does the selection process work? How long does it take?**

OCEF accepts applications all year long. Within a month after receiving all the applications, a committee will approve recipients for financial aid, and will notify the applicants and their recommenders of the final results. Financial aid is usually distributed at the beginning of each semester following OCEF's approval.

- a. Members of the China Affairs Subcommittee will notify coordinators of the number of students expected to be aided that year.
- b. Local coordinators will submit applicants' information to OCEF's High School Scholarship Program. Please see below for the required information to be collected from high school students. Reports will be prioritized based on applicants' economic circumstances. Application forms need not be filled out at this time.
- c. Once students have passed the first round of selection conducted by the Scholarship Group, coordinators will be notified of the results.
- d. The applicant, a recommender from OCEF, the school representative, and the local representative will complete the High School Student Scholarship Application Form (HS101), along with other forms. Please see below for submission procedures.
- e. Once members of the Scholarship Group and China Affairs Subcommittee have completed the second round of selection and have determined the aid amount, the Financial Aid Distribution Group and the Fundraising Group will be notified of the results.
- f. The Financial Aid Distribution Group will distribute the donations to local coordinators.
- g. Local coordinators will distribute the financial aid money and scholarship notification letters to students. Students will write a letter of appreciation to OCEF.
- h. In the meantime, the Fundraising Group will be collecting donations. If students were not be able to receive the entirety of the promised aid amount, they will receive aid from OCEF's general funds.

## **13. How is scholarship distributed? How does OCEF guarantee the rights of applicants and donors?**

- a. For students who have already been approved for funding, OCEF's local coordinators will distribute the money directly to them.
- b. Within two weeks after students have received their financial aid, coordinators will have sent the completed Forms 402, 403, and 404 to the Scholarship Group and OCEF board members located in China.

- c. For One-to-One type donations, though students may not receive more than the maximum aid amount specified by OCEF, the donor may choose to support more than one student.
- d. OCEF will distribute unused One-to-One donation funds to students in the One-to-One donation program who have not been matched with a donor.

**14. Can donors choose the students they wish to aid? How can the donor find out more about the applicants?**

Donors will be able to find out about the applicants (including their application forms, report cards, proof of tuition and expenses) by emailing OCEF at [highschool@ocef.org](mailto:highschool@ocef.org)

**15. How can I donate?**

Please fill out a Donation Registration Form, found under the One-to-One Bulletin, and indicate clearly the name and identification number of the student that you wish to support. You can then pay online by credit card or mail a check to:

Overseas China Education Foundation  
PO BOX 772436  
Houston, TX 77215-2436

Or to our address in California:  
Overseas China Education Foundation  
P.O.Box 1138  
Cupertino, CA 95015

**16. For how long will donors have to support the students? For one year only or for the entire three years of high school?**

This first depends on the student's grade (ie. 10th, 11th, 12th) in high school. Also, if the students' economic circumstances remain the same, we hope that donors will continue to support the children throughout their entire high school education. Donors may choose to pay all at once, or may make individual payments every year.

**17. Do students continue to receive Scholarship if they get into college?**

Currently, we do not have a financial aid or scholarship program to support college students.

