



# **KC Scholars High School Increasing Applicants: Best Practices**

**2024 Application Cycle**

50,000 Kansas  
City families in  
family sustaining  
jobs within the  
next 10 years.

# What to do NOW to prepare applicants...



Determine  
Eligibility



Identify  
Recommenders



Transcripts



Practice  
Writing Skills

# What to do NOW to prepare applicants...

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Determine Eligibility

Student Aid Index  $\leq$  12,000 and 2.5 GPA

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Complete [Federal Student Aid estimator](#) with all 9th and 11th graders

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Identify GPA of all income eligible students

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All eligible 9th and 11th graders should apply

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# What to do NOW to prepare applicants...

## Identify Recommenders

1 recommender must be a teacher or counselor

1 recommender can be someone of your choice (teacher, coach, pastor, scout leader, work supervisor, youth director, etc.)

Recommenders cannot be a family member, friend, classmate, or teammate

Applicants must provide KC Scholars with the name and correct email address

Recommendations forms will be emailed to the provided email address

Recommendation letters are not accepted

# What to do NOW to prepare applicants...

## Transcripts

Can be unofficial

Must contain Fall 2023 grades

Student uploads at time of application

School name and the student's name must be present on the transcript

For 11th graders: transcript must contain grades for 2 semesters of 9th grade, 2 semesters of 10th grade, and fall of 11th grade for 11th graders

# What to do NOW to prepare applicants...

## Writing Skills

2 personal statements of 250-750 words each

Write your personal statements in a Word document, then when you are ready, copy and paste them into the application portal

Clearly connect the question to your response

Proofread for accuracy, grammar, and tone

Have a trusted adult read and provide feedback on your personal statements

# Recap: Supporting the Application Process

## Determine income eligibility:

- 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders - Complete Student Aid Estimator with 2022 household income & asset info
- Adults Learners - Complete Student Aid Estimator with 2022 household income & asset info
- <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

## Identify and speak to two recommenders (one recommender only for 9<sup>th</sup> graders)

- Recommenders will complete an online form after application opens
- Applicants must provide KC Scholars with the name and correct email address of each recommender
- Recommendation letters are **not** accepted

## Transcripts

- 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders – obtain unofficial transcript that would include Fall 2023 grades
- Adults – obtain unofficial transcripts from previous colleges attended

Practice writing skills. KC Scholars requires completion of two personal statement prompts with 250-750 words for each prompt.



# Next Steps

1

## Identify eligible students

- 9th and 11th graders
- <12,000 SAI- anyone can use the SAI estimator
- 2.5+ GPA

2

## Share this opportunity with students, families, teachers, coaches

3

## Practice writing personal statements

- Application prep list includes this year's personal statement topics

4

## Help students identify a good recommender

- Sample recommender worksheet found on our website

5

## Schedule in person application workshops for eligible students to be supported by KC Scholars staff

- We cannot help with personal statements



# SCHOLARS

## Thank You!

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