

Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarship Q & A 2025-26

Who is Richard M. Schulze?

Richard M. “Dick” Schulze, the founder of The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, is also founder and chairman emeritus of Best Buy Co., Inc., the world’s largest multi-channel, consumer-electronic retailer.

Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, Schulze is the ultimate entrepreneur and is living the American dream. From a modest background, he and a hand-picked team built a retailing empire based in the Twin Cities. Through it all, he adhered to his life-long values of integrity, humility, honesty, and respect – both in his professional career and his personal life. In years to come, Schulze hopes to be remembered by a personal legacy involving three major contributions through business, entrepreneurship education and philanthropy. To read more about Mr. Schulze go to www.schulzefamilyfoundation.org and click on Our Founder.

Who should apply?

Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarships are awarded from a competitive applicant pool of high school seniors from middle income families who are U.S. citizens, attend one of the eligible high schools, show unmet financial need and do not receive federal grant assistance (Pell Grant). Minnesota students who attend Catholic high schools must have completed their elementary education at a Catholic elementary school.

Where will I find the application?

The Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarship application is online and can be found at www.schulzefamilyfoundation.org. From there, choose Apply for Scholarships from the top menu and drag down to Scholarship Schedule where you’ll find the link you need. The application can be accessed online from January 6, 2025 to April 1, 2025.

Which high schools are eligible?

California-St. Helena High School

Colorado-Vail Christian School

Florida- Aubrey Rogers High School, Barron Collier High School, Community School of Naples, Donahue Academy, Everglades City School, First Baptist Academy, Golden Gate High School, Gulf Coast High School, Immokalee High School, Lely High School, Lorenzo Walker Technical High School, Marco Island Academy, Mason Classical Academy, Naples High School, Palmetto Ridge High School, Seacrest Country Day School, St. John Neumann Catholic High School, The Village School of Naples

Minnesota-Academy of Holy Angels, Benilde St. Margaret’s School, Bethlehem Academy, Chesterton Academy, Cretin Derham Hall High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, DeLaSalle High School, Eden Prairie High School, Edina High School, Hill-Murray School, Holy Family Catholic High School, Holy Spirit Academy, Providence Academy, Saint Agnes School, St. Paul Central High School, Saint Thomas Academy, Totino-Grace High School, Two Rivers High School, Unity Catholic High School, Visitation School

What if I am a Minnesota Catholic high school student and was homeschooled for elementary school?

You will not be eligible to apply as you must have attended a Catholic elementary school

May I apply if I have permanent resident status?

This scholarship requires the recipients to be U.S. citizens.

Is there a GPA requirement?

You must have a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and it must be submitted on an official high school transcript that includes senior fall grades.

Do I need to submit a standardized test score?

No, there is no ACT/SAT requirement for the 2025-2026 application.

What is the value of the scholarship?

A Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarship is \$5000 per year for four consecutive years of full-time enrollment with satisfactory academic progress at a four-year accredited college or university.

How many scholarships will be awarded?

There will be up to 46 Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarships awarded in 2025 to graduates from eligible high schools.

How do you determine if I have unmet need?

You must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have the results sent to the college(s) you are considering. After your FAFSA is processed, you will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary which will have information that you will need to complete your application. In addition, when you submit your application by April 1, you will need to upload the Financial Aid Notification of Award that you receive from your chosen college or colleges you are considering.

Who should write my recommendation letters?

Choose teachers, counselors or other adults in your life who know you and can speak to your strengths, your weaknesses, and the impact you have had on those around you. When you complete the application, it will ask for the name and email address of your recommender and provide a way to email your request for a recommendation letter from our system. Have the name and email of your selected recommenders with you when you complete the application. Remember that your two recommendations must be submitted by your high school teachers/counselors/staff.

How should I submit my application?

The Schulze Family Foundation College Scholarship application is online. You will be asked to “create new account” by providing your email address and creating a password. Use an email address that you will check often and make a note of your password, so you can access your account later.

What if I forget my password?

You may click on “forgot your password” and you will receive an email to reset your password.

May I start the application and come back to it later?

Yes. Our system will let you save your application and return to it later.

How does my high school know where to send my official transcript?

When you enter the name and email address of the school official who will send your transcript, our system will instruct you to add your name to text that is provided. This email will be your official request of the school official and inform them that an email will come from our system with a link for them to submit your official high school transcript.

What if my high school is unable to upload the transcript to my file?

CA, CO, MN students can have their high school email a copy to mjfriederichs@schulzefamilyfoundation.org or send a paper copy to Marla Friederichs, Schulze Family Foundation, 6600 France Avenue S, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55435

FL students can have their high school email a copy to amdimercurio@schulzefamilyfoundation.org or send a paper copy to Ana DiMercurio, Schulze Family Foundation, 999 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 710, Naples, FL 34108.

How do my recommenders know how to upload their letters?

When you enter the name and email of each of your recommenders, our system will instruct you to add your name to text that is provided. This email will be your official request of your recommender and inform them that an email will come from our system with instructions and a link for them to submit your recommendation.

What if my recommenders do not want to upload their letter and would rather send you a copy?

CA, CO, MN students can have their recommenders email a copy to mjfriederichs@schulzefamilyfoundation.org or send a paper copy to Marla Friederichs, Schulze Family Foundation, 6600 France Avenue S, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55435

FL students can have their recommenders email a copy to amdimercurio@schulzefamilyfoundation.org or send a paper copy to Ana DiMercurio, Schulze Family Foundation, 999 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 710, Naples, FL 34108.

Are all the scholarship materials due by April 1, 2025?

Yes. Everything must be submitted by 11:59pm CDT on April 1, 2025. It is in your best interest to file your FAFSA and complete the financial aid process as soon as possible to receive full consideration. We understand that you are not in control of the financial aid process. **If you do not have your financial aid notification of award by April 1, please contact us directly.**

Are the awards made by May 1?

Not necessarily. Awarding a scholarship that is need based requires financial aid information from the colleges as part of the application. This information may delay the awarding of some of the scholarships.

Do you have any advice for me?

Yes.

1. Take this process seriously. You have one opportunity to share your story with the scholarship committee. At the very least, we expect to see good grammar, punctuation, a solid resume, and a well-developed essay.
2. Do not wait until the last minute. Use your project management skills to create a timeline and stick to it.
3. If you invest a few hours of your time, you could receive \$20,000. That is an incredible return on investment.

What if I have questions?

California, Colorado, Minnesota students contact:

Marla Friederichs, Senior Program Officer-Scholarships, 612-801-1431
mjfriederichs@schulzefamilyfoundation.org

Florida students contact:

Ana DiMercurio, Senior Program Officer, 239-451-3033
amdimercurio@schulzefamilyfoundation.org