

RISE

RHODE ISLANDERS SPONSORING EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2027-2028 Academic Year

APPLICATION DEADLINE
February 1, 2027

AWARDS ANTICIPATED
Mid-May 2027

Welcome to RISE

RISE supports students affected by parental incarceration by helping families access educational opportunities and by building lasting relationships with students and caregivers. This application is designed to help us understand the whole student - their strengths, interests, experiences, goals, and the support that will help them thrive.

Some questions are personal. Information is kept confidential and used only to determine eligibility, understand financial need, and identify how RISE can best support the student and family.

How to Submit

- ☐ Online through the RISE Scholarship portal at riseonline.org
- ☐ By email as one scanned PDF attachment to kdellagrotta@riseonline.org

Please contact RISE if you need help completing the application, obtaining required documentation, or submitting materials.

Required Application Materials

- ☐ Completed scholarship application
- ☐ Age-appropriate student reflection or parent/caregiver response
- ☐ Most recent report card
- ☐ Documentation of parental arrest or incarceration, such as ACI discharge papers or other substantial proof
- ☐ Completed financial information section and required proof of income
- ☐ Current photo of the student
- ☐ Rhode Island school acceptance letter(s), when available

Acceptance letters may follow.

A student may still be considered while awaiting a school acceptance letter. Indicate the status in the School Information section and send the letter as soon as it becomes available.

1. STUDENT & FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide current information so RISE can communicate directly with your family throughout the application process.

Student's full legal name _____	Date of birth _____	Grade entering in 2027-2028 _____
Current school _____	Current grade _____	
Student email (if applicable) _____	Student mobile phone (if applicable) _____	
Home address _____	City / State / ZIP _____	
Primary parent/caregiver name _____	Relationship to student _____	
Primary phone _____	Primary email _____	
Second parent/caregiver name (if applicable) _____	Relationship to student _____	
Second phone _____	Second email _____	

Best way for RISE to contact your family? ☐ Call ☐ Text ☐ Email

How did you hear about RISE?

2. PARENT/CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVE

To be completed by a parent or caregiver for every applicant. We want to hear directly from you about your child and your family's need for support.

Tell us about your child. What makes them special, and what strengths do you see in them?

Please help us understand why your family is seeking financial assistance from RISE. What circumstances make this support necessary, and what would a RISE scholarship mean for your child and household?

Is there anything else you would like RISE to understand about your child, family, or current circumstances?

3. FAMILY HISTORY & SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

RISE scholarships are intended for students affected by parental incarceration. Please complete this section as fully as you can. Information is confidential.

Biological mother's full legal name _____	Date of birth _____
Biological father's full legal name _____	Date of birth _____

- ☐ Yes ☐ No The student's biological mother is currently incarcerated.
☐ Yes ☐ No The student's biological mother was formerly incarcerated.
☐ Yes ☐ No The student's biological father is currently incarcerated.
☐ Yes ☐ No The student's biological father was formerly incarcerated.
☐ Yes ☐ No Another parent, caregiver, or immediate family member has a history of incarceration.

Please briefly explain the family member's relationship to the student, whether the incarceration is current or past, and the approximate date or length of incarceration.

Required documentation

Attach ACI discharge papers or other substantial proof of arrest/incarceration. Contact RISE if you have difficulty obtaining documentation.

4. HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

These questions help RISE understand the student's current environment and household. They do not automatically determine acceptance.

Highest level of education completed by the student's biological mother:

Highest level of education completed by the student's biological father:

Has the family ever had DCYF involvement? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please briefly explain any information that is important for RISE to understand.

Has the student repeated a grade? ☐ Yes ☐ No **If yes, which grade?**

Household Members

Full name	Date of birth	Gender (optional)	Relationship to student

5. SCHOOL INFORMATION

List the Rhode Island schools the student has applied to or plans to apply to for 2027-2028.

School name	Applied	Accepted	Decision pending
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

Which school is the family's first choice, and why?

What opportunities or supports is the family hoping this school will provide?

School documents

Attach the student's most recent report card and any available acceptance letter(s). An acceptance letter may be submitted later without removing the student from consideration.

6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Complete this section for the household in which the student primarily lives. RISE uses this information to understand financial need. Information is confidential.

Student name _____	Primary parent/caregiver name _____
Parent/caregiver occupation _____	Employer _____
Second parent/caregiver occupation (if applicable) _____	Employer _____
Total annual household income _____	Monthly rent or mortgage _____
Number of dependent children _____	Children in elementary / middle / high school / college _____

Does the household receive public assistance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does anyone in the household receive Social Security or SSI? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Required Proof of Income

Please provide ONE of the following forms of documentation that best reflects the household's current financial situation:

- ☐ Most recent federal and state tax returns
- ☐ W-2 form and two current pay stubs, or one month of pay stubs
- ☐ Documentation of public assistance, Social Security, SSI, unemployment, or other benefits
- ☐ Other current income documentation accepted by RISE

7. GETTING TO KNOW THE STUDENT

This section may be completed by the student and/or parent/caregiver. Short, honest answers are welcome.

What does the student enjoy doing outside of school? Include hobbies, sports, clubs, creative interests, volunteering, work, faith or community activities.

What subject or part of school does the student enjoy most?

What is the student most proud of?

What are three words that describe the student?

What motivates the student or helps them keep going when something is difficult?

What type of support helps the student learn, feel comfortable, and succeed?

Is there anything you wish teachers or other adults understood about this student?

What does the student hope to accomplish during the 2027-2028 school year?

8. AGE-APPROPRIATE REFLECTION

Complete only ONE prompt. Choose the prompt based on the grade the student will ENTER for the 2027-2028 school year - not the grade they are currently in.

Important grade rule

Example: a student currently in eighth grade who will enter ninth grade must complete the high-school prompt.

Student will enter grade _____ in September 2027.

Entering Grades K-5 - Parent/Caregiver Reflection

Think ahead to the coming school year. What do you hope your child will gain - academically, socially, or personally - from their school experience? What would meaningful growth or success look like for them by the end of the year, and how could RISE help make that possible?

Suggested length: 1-2 thoughtful paragraphs.

Entering Grades 6-8 - Student Reflection

RISE supports students affected by parental incarceration who demonstrate strength, resilience, and ambition. Tell us about an experience or challenge that has helped shape who you are becoming. What have you learned about yourself, and how do you hope education and support from RISE will help you reach your goals and make a difference in your school, family, or community?

Suggested length: approximately 300-500 words. We care more about your honest voice than perfect grammar.

Entering Grades 9-12 - Student Reflection

RISE supports students affected by parental incarceration who demonstrate strength, resilience, and ambition. Reflect on your story and the experiences or challenges that have shaped who you are today. What have those experiences taught you about yourself? How do you hope education and support from RISE will help you reach your future goals and give back to your community?

Suggested length: approximately 500-750 words. We want to hear your authentic voice and reflection.

Response: ☐ Attached as a separate page ☐ Entered in the online application

9. FINAL CHECKLIST & CERTIFICATION

Final Application Checklist

- ☐ All required application sections completed
- ☐ Correct age-based reflection completed
- ☐ Most recent report card attached
- ☐ Incarceration documentation attached or assistance requested
- ☐ Financial section completed and ONE form of proof of income attached
- ☐ Current student photo attached
- ☐ Acceptance letter attached or marked as pending

Parent/Caregiver Certification

By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this application is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize RISE to review the submitted information for scholarship eligibility and program planning. I understand that RISE has a limited number of scholarships and that submitting a complete application does not guarantee acceptance.

Parent/caregiver printed name _____	Signature _____	Date _____
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Student Acknowledgment - Grades 6-12

I confirm that the student reflection represents my own experiences and ideas. I understand that RISE wants to know me as a person and that my writing does not need to be perfect.

Student printed name _____	Signature _____	Date _____
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