



Compass Homeschool Classes

Carson Scholars Fund
2018 School Selection

CARSON SCHOLARS FUND

The Carson Scholars Fund (CSF) was established in 1996 by Dr. Ben Carson. The fund awards 500 scholarships annually and has provided more than 8,000 scholarships since its inception. This scholarship program is unique because it is not limited to high school seniors, and instead is open to students in grades 4 through 11 who “excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities.” The scholarships are for \$1,000 each, and recipients may re-apply in future years.

Each school is allowed to nominate one student each year to be considered in the pool of scholarship candidates from across the county. The standards are very high for alternative education entities, such as homeschool programs, to be recognized as established programs for purposes of nominating a student. In early December 2017, Compass Homeschool Classes was approved by the CSF as a school organization. This allows Compass to select and nominate one student to be considered for the award each year.

1. SCHOOL LEVEL SELECTION PROCESS

Compass will select and nominate one student. Being a school-level nominee is not a guarantee of a scholarship award, but instead advances one student to be considered in the national pool where 500 awards will be given. A student’s application to Compass is a commitment that he/she agrees to complete the application process to the CSF which includes another application and essay, community service details, report card, and a teacher recommendation. The Compass nominee’s application for the national competition will be due on January 9, 2019. A student should consider the time he/she has available over the winter break to complete the application and should plan ahead to contact a teacher for a recommendation.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

The Compass candidate must have been enrolled in a Compass class during the Fall of 2018, first and/or second quarter.

The Compass candidate must be in 4th through 11th grade. Grades shall be defined as the grade level a student would be in if enrolled in a traditional public school by birthdate without grade skipping, repeated grades, or delayed school entry.

The Compass candidate must be legally homeschooled in accordance with the standards of his/her home state or jurisdiction. The candidate will be asked to furnish documentation that he/she is recognized as a homeschooler in good standing.



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3. CRITERIA

Compass candidates will be judged on two aspects. Each aspect will be weighted equally.

- Academic Record
- Community Service

3.1 Academic

The candidate's academic record will also be judged at the school level based two elements: (1) Current Term's Grade Point Average (GPA) in core, academic courses (CSF method) and (2) Overall Student Transcript.

3.1.1 Grade Point Average (GPA)

The GPA is an important measure by the CSF organization in the final, national competition. The candidate's GPA must be 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale for the current report card. The GPA is for the current term (i.e. Fall 2018); it is not a cumulative GPA that spans multiple years.

A student's GPA must be calculated in strict accordance with the CSF rules. Their system is based on A: 90%-100% (4.0 points); B: 80%-89% (3.0 points), etc. Their system also acknowledges half point escalation for honors level courses and whole point escalation for AP, IB, or college dual enrollment. Only the following subjects can be considered in the calculation of a student's GPA: English/Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Elective classes cannot be counted into the GPA calculation. Please see the complete CSF document entitled, "GPA Calculations Rules and Policies" for more details.

<http://carsonscholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GPA-Calculation-Rules-and-Policies.pdf>

The GPA for the current term should be shown on a report card. For homeschooled students who do not regularly receive report cards, a Compass template is furnished for your use. On this report card, list only classes for the current semester, whether taken at Compass, through another homeschool program, online courses, dual enrollment classes, or at home. For purposes of the national nomination, the report card must name your school as Compass Homeschool Classes regardless of the number of classes you took at Compass.



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3.1.2 Transcript

A candidate's transcript is requested to demonstrate how the student's current report and current term GPA fit into the student's overall academic progression. Parent created transcripts are accepted and expected for homeschooled students. A transcript should be a one-page, document that summarizes a student's academic work with contact information, class names, term, and grades earned. A transcript generally does not include detailed course descriptions. For students whose academic record include dual enrolled courses or classes completed through an online correspondence program, such classes should be reflected on your overall, one-page transcript even through the participating program, community college, or university might generate their own transcripts.

3.2 Community Service

The CSF emphasizes humanitarian work and community service as criteria for their awards. On the Compass application, candidates are asked to describe their community involvement and volunteer work for the current calendar year. Prior year's volunteer work will not be considered. The community service explanation must be written in complete sentences.

4. KEY DATES

- Compass student applications deadline: Friday, December 7, 2018
- Compass nomination due to CSF: Friday, December 14, 2018
- Compass nominee application deadline: Wednesday, January 9, 2019
- Compass administrator verification of application: Wednesday, January 16, 2019
- Carson Scholars recipients notified March 2019

5. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed Application
- Report Card (with GPA calculation) own or application template
- Transcript
- County Homeschool Letter (acknowledging current status as a homeschooled student)



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Office use only:
Application Code: _____

APPLICATION

Full Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

County Where Homeschooled: _____

Parent/Guardian 1

Name _____

Address (if different) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Parent/Guardian 2

Name _____

Address (if different) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Endorsement:

I affirm that all information is correct, that my child's GPA has been calculated in accordance with the Carson Scholar's Fund standards and is based on appropriately assigned grades. I further attest that the Personal Essay and Community Service Statement are my child's original work.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____



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STUDENT REPORT CARD

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Grading Period: _____ First Semester (9/1/2018 - 12/14/2018)

Course Name	School/Program	Letter Grade	Honors	AP	Dual	Grade Point
			Check if applicable			
Grade Point Average						

Grading Scale

On-Level Courses

- A (90 - 100%) = 4.0
- B (80 - 89%) = 3.0
- C (70 - 79%) = 2.0
- D (60 - 69%) = 1.0
- F (<60%) = 0.0

Honors Courses

- A (90 - 100%) = 4.5
- B (80 - 89%) = 3.5
- C (70 - 79%) = 2.5
- D (60 - 69%) = 1.5
- F (<60%) = 0.5

AP, IB, Community College

- A (90 - 100%) = 5.0
- B (80 - 89%) = 4.0
- C (70 - 79%) = 3.0
- D (60 - 69%) = 2.0
- F (<60%) = 1.0

School Official (Parent) Name _____

School Official (Parent) Signature _____

Date: _____