



A Union of Professionals

How to apply for the 2010 CARL J. MEGEL SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The IFT special education scholarship, a \$1,000 award, is named in honor of the late Carl Megel, who was the AFT's first full-time president from 1952-1964. Megel began his teacher union career as an officer of the Chicago Teachers Union in the 1930's and served the union for over 50 years.

Eligibility

The award is entirely unrestricted as to race, religion, political affiliation, or choice of accredited college, university, business, trade or vocational school. The applicant must be the son or daughter of a currently employed, active member in good standing of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, or the son or daughter of a deceased member who was in good standing with the IFT at the time of death, and a high school senior who will graduate this year. Additionally, a student may be sponsored by an IFT member who is currently or has previously been a teacher of the special education student (attach a letter stating reasons for sponsorship and teacher's name, address and local number). Students applying for a special education scholarship must be presently enrolled in a special education school, class or program for students with mental impairments, physical impairments, learning disabilities, visual/hearing impairments, deafness/blindness, behavior/emotional disorders, speech/language impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury or other health impairment. Students who plan to teach special education are not eligible.

How to apply

The application must be completed in full and signed by the applicant. The applicant's parent, guardian or sponsoring teacher must also sign so that the IFT scholarship committee can verify membership in good standing. The following information must be submitted with the application:

- Transcript
- Extra-curricular activities record
- College entrance test scores, when appropriate (write "none" if applicant has not taken the tests)
- List all monetary scholarships or awards received (write "none" if no awards have been received)
- Applicant's work record, including type of work, approximate number of years worked, and approximate number of hours worked per week
- A letter from a the sponsoring teacher (if applicable) with the teacher's name, address and IFT local number
- A brief statement from applicant – What do you hope to gain from a post-secondary education
- Statement of recommendation from a teacher, dean, counselor or other school educator
- Proof of enrollment in a special education program from a teacher, dean, counselor or administrator

Submission of incomplete information will result in the application's rejection.

All applicants will be notified by mail of the committee's decision. The material received by the committee will become the property of the committee and will not be returned. The decision of the committee is final. Questions about the scholarship application process should be directed to the IFT department of communications at 630/468-4080.

Mail the completed application and all supplementary materials to the IFT Special Education Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 390, 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559.

Applications must be received in the IFT Westmont office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2009.

Facsimiles will NOT be accepted.