

# MISS PEARL BIRMINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

- I. The Miss Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund was established in 1947 by T. F. Birmingham of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to comply with a request by his sister, Pearl Birmingham, who died in 1946. In her will, Pearl Birmingham left 1,000 shares of common stock in the Standard Oil Company of Ohio to support the scholarship fund.
- II. The income for the Pearl Birmingham scholarships is currently provided by the interest earned from a trust fund created by the sale of the oil stock, which is in excess of \$2 million.
- III. The number of scholarships and the amounts for scholarships are determined annually by the Wylie ISD Board of Trustees. This information will be provided to the high schools each year no later than August 1.

Each Wylie ISD high school will award an equal number of scholarships.  
The annual scholarship awards will be as follows:

3 - \$15,000 scholarships at each high school (6 total)	\$90,000
5 - \$2,500 scholarships at each high school (10 total)	<u>25,000</u>
Total	<u>\$115,000</u>

There will be no proration of the number of scholarships between high schools.

NOTE: If the market value of the Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund drops below \$2 million for the months of April, May, and June, the scholarships will all be reduced 20% for the upcoming year. (i.e., 3 - \$12,000 and 5 – \$2,000 scholarships at each campus)

Scholarships will return to \$15,000 and \$2,500 when the market value of the Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund is \$2.2 million or greater for the months of April, May, and June.

If the market value of the Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Fund is \$3 million or greater, the Birmingham Scholarship Sub Committee, comprised of Wylie ISD Trustees, will reconvene to consider additional or larger scholarships.

- IV. The following guidelines will be used in determining a student's eligibility to apply for the scholarship.
- A. The student must be ranked in the top 10% of his/her class.
  - B. The student must be of good moral character.
  - C. The student must be a graduate of Wylie High School or Wylie East High School.
  - D. The student must have received all high school grades from a Wylie ISD high school.  
A preapproved list of virtual courses/providers will be provided by the Wylie ISD Birmingham Scholarship Committee prior to students enrolling in this type of course. The preapproved list will be provided to all high schools in the spring prior to student enrollment for the upcoming academic year.
  - E. The student must take both the ACT and SAT. Scores must be received by March of the senior year.
  - F. The number of students eligible to apply for the scholarships will be limited to the top eight academically ranked students from each high school who meet the guidelines stated in Section IV, items A - E. The academic ranking which will be used for the Birmingham Scholarship eligibility will be calculated at the end of the fifth six weeks prior to the student's graduation.
- V. Selection of scholarship winners will be based on the following:
- A. The student's academic ranking
  - B. The student's SAT and ACT scores
  - C. Submission of an autobiography by the student
  - D. A personal interview with school superintendents who represent a school district in each of the following counties: Collin, Dallas and Rockwall.
- VI. Interview Process
- A. There will be one interview committee comprised of school superintendents for the purpose of interviewing and ranking the eligible students from each high school campus. The interviews will be conducted at the Wylie ISD Educational Service Center on the same day.
  - B. The Superintendent of Wylie ISD or his/her designee will select the members of the interview committee. The interview committee will represent Collin, Dallas, and Rockwall counties.
  - C. At least one of the committee members must be an acting Superintendent. The Superintendent of Wylie ISD will not serve on the Birmingham Scholarship interview committee.
  - D. Weighted value for the selection criteria:
    - 1. GPA – 35%
    - 2. Test Scores – 35%
    - 3. Autobiography – 10%
    - 4. Interview – 20%
  - E. The judges will rank all applicants from each high school one through the total number applying, with the top three (3) receiving a \$15,000 scholarship each, and

the next five (5) receiving a \$2,500 scholarship each. All eight students receiving scholarships will be recognized as Birmingham Scholars. The decision of the judges will be final.

- F. There will be one Birmingham Scholars Banquet honoring the awardees. The Superintendent of Wylie ISD or his/her designee will select the sight and make the arrangements for the banquet.

VII. Implementation of the Scholarships –

A committee of Wylie ISD faculty/staff will oversee the administrative guidelines to ensure that the scholarship procedures are followed after the scholarships have been awarded. The District Birmingham Scholarship committee will be chaired by the Superintendent (or his/her designee). In addition, the committee will be comprised of an administrator from each high school campus and two central office administrators.

- VIII. The student receiving the scholarship must initiate the award by enrolling as a full-time student at an accredited college or university of his/her choice during the fall semester following his/her graduation from high school. Fulltime enrollment is considered a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours. The student receiving the scholarship must provide **official documentation** from the college or university **verifying** that he/she is **enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours**. This official documentation should be presented to the scholarship committee no later than **October 1** of the fall semester. All **official documentation** provided to the committee must be legible. The district Birmingham Scholarship committee will make the final determination regarding what constitutes official documentation.

The scholarships will be distributed as follows:

- A. \$15,000 scholarships - \$1,875 each semester for four years. No payments will be made for summer semesters or mini semesters.
  - B. \$2,500 scholarships - \$1,250 each semester for the first year. No payments will be made for summer semesters or mini semesters.
- IX. To remain eligible for the scholarship, the recipient must continue to be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree and must provide official documentation from the college or university verifying that he/she is enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours for the fall semester and 12 semester hours for the spring semester. The official documentation should be received by **October 1** for fall payment and by **March 1** for spring payment. All official documentation provided to the committee must be legible.

The recipient must pass a minimum of nine (9) semester hours with a C grade average for the fall semester and must pass a minimum of nine (9) semester hours with a C grade average for the spring semester. The recipient must submit an official copy of grades at the end of the fall semester and again at the end of the spring semester to the Wylie ISD Birmingham Scholarship Committee. The official copy of grades must be received by **October 1** for fall payment and by **March 1** for spring payment. All official documentation provided to the District Birmingham Scholarship committee must be legible.

The Pearl Birmingham scholarship recipients who fail to provide the proper documentation by the stated timelines will forfeit the scholarship. The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Birmingham scholarship fund.

Short semesters (mini-semesters -- Examples: January Term or May Term) and/or summer semesters may not be combined with long semesters or with each other to meet enrollment or grade requirements to maintain eligibility.

- X. A student receiving a bachelor's degree before the allotted four years and desiring to continue college work for a master's degree is eligible to receive the remainder of the scholarship (if the student begins master's work in the next available semester).
- XI. Any person accepting the scholarship, and then dropping out of school for reasons other than a disabling condition as determined by a physician, serving in the military, or serving a required term of missionary work, would forfeit the remainder of the scholarship.

A student dropping out of school as described above will be expected to resume classes at the beginning of the first regular full-length semester.

The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund.

If a student fails to initiate the scholarship or fails to completely utilize the scholarship for any reason other than those mentioned above, the remaining scholarship funds will be returned to the general Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund.

- XII. The Pearl Birmingham Scholarship Administrative Guidelines will be administered by the Wylie ISD Birmingham Scholarship Committee as described in Section VI. Any exceptions to the above guidelines or changes in a recipient's college educational program must be submitted in writing, prior to the next semester. The committee will review requests and make recommendations to the Superintendent for Board approval.
- XIII. Forfeiture of the scholarship is final. The remaining scholarship funds will return to the general Pearl Birmingham Scholarship fund.