



MASSACHUSETTS AFL-CIO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP *Frequently Asked Questions*

How do I sign up for the Labor History Exam?

Interested applicants can register for the exam by visiting www.massafcio.org/scholarships. The application process will open in October 2019 and the deadline to apply will be Friday, December 13th, 2019. The 2019-20 study guide and new interactive study website will be available starting in the summer of 2019. Once the application has been submitted, it is the student's responsibility to notify their guidance office that they plan to take the exam which will be in February 2020.

How does a school order/receive exams?

Schools will receive a letter after the winter break with a list of registered students from their respective school. Each year the MA AFL-CIO will contact schools and ask for updated contact information for the exam coordinator and will send exams and information to that contact.

Who is eligible?

Every year the Massachusetts AFL-CIO publishes a scholarship brochure describing the eligibility criteria for each award. Students with a union affiliation are eligible for both the Massachusetts AFL-CIO awards and those awards listed under their specific local union/central labor council. Massachusetts students that do not have union affiliation are eligible for the Massachusetts AFL-CIO scholarships only. Students from other states are only eligible for scholarships offered by their affiliated local union that meet the union's criteria. If you are unsure as to the specific criteria of your affiliated local union, see the Scholarship Book for more information.

Who gives scholarships?

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO, along with our affiliated local unions and labor/non-labor organizations, offer a scholarship program providing hundreds of scholarships totaling almost one million dollars to union members, their children/step children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and non-union Massachusetts high school seniors. Please note that for union scholarships, each scholarship that is offered has its own criteria set by the donor. Students must meet the criteria in order to be eligible for that scholarship.

There is a sample Scholarship Book on our website where you can see the different scholarships that are offered by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, as well as other local unions and organizations and the amount and criteria for each scholarship set forth by the local union.



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What are Type I and Type II Scholarships?

The brochure is divided into 2 sections describing the two types of scholarship programs. Section 1 (Type I) lists those scholarships requiring the student to take the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Labor History Exam in February.

Section 2 (Type II) lists those scholarships offered by local unions/central labor councils that select their own winners either through a lottery or exam of their own (to qualify for these scholarships students do not need to take the Labor History Exam in February). Please contact your local union for more information.

What is the scope of the Labor History Exam?

The labor history exam is divided into two parts. Part 1 is a series of multiple-choice questions covering the history and structure of the labor movement in America, legislation affecting American workers, child labor laws, minimum wages, civil rights, safety in the workplace, old age and health insurance, unemployment compensation, worker's compensation and past and current labor events. Part 2 is an essay of 500 words or less based on a choice of topics selected by the MA AFL-CIO Scholarship Committee each year.

How are the winners selected?

All Massachusetts AFL-CIO scholarships and local union/central labor council scholarships listed in Section 1 of the scholarship brochure are awarded solely on the basis of the multiple-choice exam and essay score. Awardees are selected by the Scholarship Committee, which reviews and scores the essay question, and combines this score with the multiple-choice exam. Students that comply with the guidelines and rate highest on the exam shall be judged the winner of local union/central labor council awards. Students sponsored by a local union are eligible to receive no more than 2 scholarships.

When will I be notified if I have won an award?

Students will be notified by mail in April if they have or have not won a scholarship award. Every student is notified. Also, letters will be sent to local unions as well as high schools announcing winners. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carla Connolly at the MA AFL-CIO.

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For more information, contact
Carla Connolly, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Scholarship Coordinator
(781) 324-8230 or cconnolly@massaflcio.org
