



Operation Jump Start's Scholarship Policy

What is Operation Jump Start's (OJS) Scholarship?

OJS provides students the opportunity to **earn** scholarship funds from eighth grade to senior year of high school. This scholarship is awarded through our College Access and Success Program. Students are awarded funds through achievements in the areas of academics and event attendance. In total, students can earn up to \$1,500 (\$250 per semester, active in the program) that they can use for college. This scholarship is intended for higher education expenses to assist students in earning a college degree.

Who can access OJS Scholarships?

Disbursements may be processed for active students in good standing with OJS who are enrolled in a two or four-year college/university. High school seniors can access their OJS scholarship starting the spring of their senior year before college for expenses related to college enrollment (See pg. 3). If a student leaves OJS voluntarily or through dismissal, funds are forfeited and may no longer be accessed. All high school and college student requests will be reviewed, approved, and processed by the College Success Program Manager. Once reviewed, approved, and processed College Success Program Manager will receive support for payment processing by the Chief of Staff and/or the Executive Director.

Students that were in Operation Jump Start (8th-12th grade) are eligible to access up to \$250 each semester that they are enrolled in college (fall and spring only).

No disbursements will be made after a student graduates from college. Students have six years from the date of their high school graduation to access funds. Funds will be closed out after six years. Students who are enrolled in school past six years may contact the College Success Program Manager for consideration of reopening their account.

A. \$250 'OJS Scholarship' awarded once per semester (\$500 max per college student, per school year, fall and spring).

Eligibility:

- OJS high school students earn eventual college award as they participate in Access and Success programming (8th-12th grade).
- Students must remain in good academic standing (A-C grades), student must attend mandated tutoring sessions if anything under C grade is earned and make up D or F grade via summer school, or, retake course until passing grade is achieved, finally, student must attend 90% of all mandatory OJS events annually.

Students that are enrolled in college (1st year- 6th year) are eligible to access up to \$500 each semester that they are enrolled in college (fall and spring only).

B. \$500 'Participation Incentive' awarded once per semester (\$1,000 max per college student, per school year, fall and spring).

Eligibility:

- Student must complete pre- and post-test assessment with assigned intern, submit proof of current college transcript and college registration forms, meet with assigned College Success intern twice monthly (at least once per month via video chat), attend annual social mixers, and quarterly webinars.

Students in the twelfth grade are eligible to apply for directed scholarships. Directed scholarships are funded from individual donors and have specific criteria. Each student is highly recommended to apply for each directed scholarship. Directed scholarships are awarded in late summer/ early fall of their first year in college.

What can funds be used for?

The OJS scholarship is intended for *college-related expenses only*. Here are some examples of appropriate requests of funds:

- College orientation
- Registration
- Books & supplies
- Personal computer
- Deposits for school or housing
- Meal plan fees
- Student health insurance fees
- Transportation/travel expenses (e.g. cost of plane, train, or bus ticket)
- Tuition & Fees
- Dorm Supplies
- Room & Board

How can students access their OJS funds?

In the beginning of the fall semester, students must complete the **OJS Scholarship Request Form** via email and include all necessary information for processing a payment. The College Success Program Manager will send out an email with the OJS scholarship request form. To receive the \$250, the student needs to provide proof of updated transcript, be enrolled full-time, current school schedule, financial aid award letter, previous semester grades, and OJS National Student Clearinghouse waiver if you have not recently provided these to your counselor. An email confirmation (which includes a copy of your request) will be emailed to you. Please keep this for your records.

The College Success Program Manager will review, approve, and submit requests for processing to the Executive Director. If all information provided in the request is accurate, requests typically take up to 7-10 business days to process unless otherwise noted. If you do not receive a receipt or payment confirmation within two weeks of your request, please follow-up with the College Success Program Manager to ensure a payment was made.

What else should a student know before making a scholarship request?

- All checks will be mailed to the payee address listed in the request unless otherwise noted. Payments may be delayed if the appropriate or accurate information is not included in the initial request.
- For high school seniors, payments will only be made directly to the student's school or a specified vendor. While in high school, a payment/check will never be made directly to a student or their parent(s).
- Students are eligible to access up to \$250 of their total earned OJS scholarship each semester (fall and Spring ONLY).
- In cases of extreme need or a pressing financial situation, a student may contact the College Success Program Manager about an Emergency Request. This request does not guarantee money disbursement.

When can a student make a request?

OJS Scholarship requests are reviewed in the fall (September-October) and spring (January-February). **For the fall disbursement the request should be done from September-October. For the spring disbursement, the request should be done from January-February.** Any request made after the above dates will not be accepted; therefore, the student will not receive the scholarship for that semester. **Requests for scholarships should be submitted a minimum of one week prior to any OJS holiday breaks. Holidays may delay request.** Please check with your MSW Intern Counselor about any other potential payment delays.

OJS Holiday Breaks (No payments processed):

- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving
- MLK Day
- President's Day
- Cesar Chavez Day
- Memorial Day

If you have questions about the above policies, you may email the College Success Program Manager, Maria Alvarez at maria@operationjumpstart.org.



**OJS Scholarship Policy
Student Agreement**

I have read and understood the OJS scholarship policy. By signing my name below, I certify I have read the above information. Any questions concerning these policies have been discussed. My signature also certifies my understanding of and agreement with the above policies.

Name (print): _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____