

Girls' Recognition and High School Senior Scholarship Programs

I. Scope

- a. Girls' Recognition Programs and High School Senior Scholarship Programs [hereafter "Programs"] sponsored by AAUW Pennsylvania or Pennsylvania AAUW Branches that:
 - i. Recognize the achievement of girls in K-12;
 - ii. Award scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

II. Policy

- a. These Programs are meant to celebrate the student. AAUW's opposition to the diversion of public school funds (ie: vouchers, charter funding formulas, and business tax credits) to fund alternative public schools, and AAUW's concern for the lack of accountability or adherence to civil rights laws that must protect all students is not to be confused with the accomplishments of individual students.
- b. Recognition and/or awards are open to students who:
 - i. Have demonstrated the Program's specific criteria (as set and administered by the Branch);
 - ii. Attend a public (receives federal funds) traditional, charter, or cyber charter school (Implementation for details);
 1. Public charter and cyber charter schools must demonstrate that they serve an equal proportion of vulnerable students as the nominee's district. Vulnerable students include: students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, English Language Learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in the dependency and delinquency systems.
 2. Public charter and cyber charter schools must also demonstrate that they serve an equal proportion of students whose disabilities require high-cost services as the nominee's district.
 - iii. Attend a private school that adheres to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools (Implementation for details).
 - iv. Are home schooled. (Implementation for details.)

III. Implementation

- a. All Programs:
 - i. Branches are asked to include the following sentence, modified to reflect the specifics of your Program, to your announcement/solicitation letter and press release (if applicable);

AAUW <Branch> <Program Name> celebrates the outstanding achievement in an educational setting in the <program specifics>. In recognition of AAUW's long-standing support for publicly-funded

- education, girls attending public <elementary, middle, high schools> (either traditional, charter, or cyber charter schools) are eligible to be nominated as long as the schools they attend demonstrate meeting established criteria.
- ii. Branches will not devalue or disregard school work completed in a non-traditional school setting.
- b. Regarding public charter schools, Branches
- i. Are not required to contact public charter schools because:
 - 1. There is no way of knowing if a student from the school district(s) specified in your program is attending a public charter school, and
 - 2. Contacting all public cyber charter schools registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education would be an administrative burden.
 - ii. Are required to send the standard appeal letter to a public charter school if contacted by the school as long as the following criteria are met.
 - 1. The public charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of vulnerable students as the nominee's district. Vulnerable students include: students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, English Language Learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in the dependency and delinquency systems.
 - 2. The public charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of students whose disabilities require high-cost services as the nominee's district.
 - iii. Are required to include recommended students attending a public charter school that has demonstrated meeting the criteria above.
- c. Regarding public cyber charter schools, Branches
- i. Are not required to contact public cyber charter schools because:
 - 1. There is no way of knowing if a student from the school district(s) specified in your program is attending a public cyber charter school, and
 - 2. Contacting all public cyber charter schools registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education would be an administrative burden.
 - ii. Are required to send the standard appeal letter to a public cyber charter school if contacted by the school as long as the following criteria are met.
 - 1. The public cyber charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of vulnerable students as the nominee's district. Vulnerable students include: students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, English Language Learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in the dependency and delinquency systems.
 - 2. The public cyber charter school must demonstrate they serve an equal proportion of students whose disabilities require high-cost services as the nominee's district.

- iii. Are required to include recommended students attending a public cyber charter school that has demonstrated meeting the criteria above and the students would be students at the traditional public school/s included in your Program if they attended a traditional public school.
- d. Regarding private schools in the school district(s), Branches
 - i. Are not required to contact private schools because:
 - 1. There is no way of knowing if the private school is adhering to the same civil right and accountability standards as required of public schools.
 - a. Is an equal opportunity employer and its application contains language that explicitly says it will not discriminate against students.
 - ii. Are required to send the standard appeal letter to a private school if contacted by that school and the school provides documentation proving that it adheres to the same civil rights and accountability standards required of public schools.
- e. Regarding home schooled students, Branches
 - i. Are not required to contact home schooled students.
 - ii. Will include home schooled students, if Branch is contacted, and student meets program criteria.