



planting success, one student at a time  
battlecreekpublicschools.org/seed

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## SEED Award | Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the SEED Award?** The SEED Award is a competitive award program that gives recipients higher education awards in the form of \$500.00 towards a 529 college savings account at Omni Credit Union.

**Who can apply?** Any Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) student from grades Kindergarten to 11 can apply for the award.

**Why should I apply for the SEED Award when my student will be eligible for the Bearcat Advantage?** The Bearcat Advantage offers an incredible opportunity by covering up to 100% of tuition and mandatory fees for eligible BCPS graduates at eligible four-year universities or colleges in Michigan or one of nearly 100 eligible HBCUs. However, college costs include more than just tuition and mandatory fees. Fortunately, scholarships like the SEED award and others can help cover other costs students will face after graduation, such as textbooks, housing, meal plans, and more. To learn more about other scholarship opportunities, visit [www.battlecreekpublicschools.org/scholarships](http://www.battlecreekpublicschools.org/scholarships)

**When are applications due?** Applications are due to your school's front office by the last Friday in January each year. For any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact your school's front office.

**When is it awarded, and how do I know if I receive the SEED Award?** The award committees will meet throughout the month of March. Recipients will be notified in April, and a recognition event will be held in May.

**Can I apply for the SEED Award more than once?** Yes. All BCPS students may apply for the SEED Award every year between the grades of Kindergarten and 11.

**How many times can I receive the SEED Award?** There is no limit on the number of times a student can receive the SEED Award. Students who receive multiple awards will have \$500.00 added to their pre-existing 529 account at Omni Credit Union.

**Do I have to reapply to the SEED Award every year?** It is recommended that students apply every year they are eligible so they can have more chances of receiving funds for higher education. Application to the SEED Award, however, is not required by BCPS.

**Who should I ask to complete my Candidate Recommendation Form?** There are many types of individuals who will be good recommenders for you. Choose someone who knows you well but is not related to you. For example, you might consider a community organization leader, a teacher or counselor, or someone from your place of worship.

**I know someone who goes to a different school. Can they apply for the SEED Award?** No. The SEED Award is only for students enrolled at BCPS during the current school year.

**Is the SEED Award application online?** [battlecreekpublicschools.org/SEED](http://battlecreekpublicschools.org/SEED)

**If I receive the award, how will I receive payment?** BCPS will notify recipients of times they may sign up for their 529 account with OMNI Community Credit Union staff. The school will hold enrollment events, but families may also choose to set up an appointment with OMNI staff at other times. Once your account is set up, the award payment will be sent directly to your college savings account.