



A Union of Professionals

## 2025 CARL J. MEGEL SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The IFT Special Education Scholarship is named in honor of the late Carl Megel, who was the AFT's first full-time president from 1952-1964. Megel began his teacher union career as an officer of the Chicago Teachers Union in the 1930's and served the union for over 50 years.

### AWARD

In 2025, the Illinois Federation of Teachers shall present one special education scholarship award in the amount of \$20,000.00. (Distributed in the amount of \$5,000.00 each year for four years, provided the student is enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university, business, trade vocational school and maintains a "C" cumulative average.)

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for this scholarship must have been enrolled within at least the last twelve (12) calendar months of this scholarship's application deadline in a special education school, class or program for students with autism, deaf blindness, deafness, developmental delay, emotional disability, hearing impairments, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment.

The award is entirely unrestricted as to race, religion, political affiliation, or choice of accredited college, university, business, trade, or vocational school. The applicant must be a high school senior who will graduate in 2025. The applicant must be the child of a currently employed, active member in good standing of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, or the child of a deceased member who was in good standing with the Illinois Federation of Teachers at the time of death. Alternately, applicant may be sponsored by an IFT member who is an education professional and works directly with (or previously worked with) the student. In that event, the IFT member must provide a letter stating his/her reasons for sponsoring the student, as well as his/her own name, address, and local number.

### HOW TO APPLY

The application must be completed in full and signed by the applicant. The applicant's parent, guardian or sponsoring teacher must also sign so that the IFT Scholarship Committee can verify membership in good standing.

**The following information MUST be submitted with this application:**

- Proof of enrollment in a special education program from a teacher, dean or counselor (*Note: Special education programs are authorized under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. 504 Plans are authorized under a separate federal law, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.*)
- Most recent special education evaluation for eligibility or re-evaluation
- Most recent IEP
- Official transcripts
- Recommendation letter from a teacher, dean, counselor, or other school educator
- Extra-curricular or volunteer activities record (write "none" if applicable)
- List of all monetary scholarships or awards received (write "none" if applicable)
- Applicant's work record, type of work, and hours worked per week (write "none" if applicable)
- An essay statement from applicant

Faxed submissions will not be accepted. Application and documents submitted will not be returned.

Send completed application with all required information to  
**IFT, 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559.**  
**Applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 7, 2025**



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# 2025 CARL J. MEGEL SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

*Please print or type (Attach additional pages if needed.)*

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of current high school \_\_\_\_\_

Address of high school \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Name of applicant's sponsor, or parent/guardian who is/was an IFT member \_\_\_\_\_

School where sponsoring educator or parent/guardian is/was assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Address of IFT member \_\_\_\_\_

IFT member's telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

IFT member's local union name and number \_\_\_\_\_

List extra-curricular and volunteer activities and dates (write "none" if applicable, attach additional pages if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List all monetary scholarships or awards received (write "none" if applicable, attach additional pages if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List applicant's work history, including hours per week (write "none" if applicable, attach additional pages if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Proof of enrollment in a special education program attached (see cover page)
- Official transcripts attached
- Recommendation letter from teacher, dean, counselor or another educator attached
- Applicant Statement attached (See following page for essay prompt)

*I hereby apply for the 2025 Illinois Federation of Teachers' Megel Scholarship award and agree to abide by the decision of the scholarship committee. I understand that the decision of the committee is final.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Mail completed application with required information to 500 Oakmont Lane, Westmont, IL 60559  
Completed application with required information must be postmarked by Friday, **March 7, 2025**



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**APPLICANT STATEMENT  
2025 CARL J. MEGEL SPECIAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP**

*(Please attach your essay to your completed scholarship application form. Use additional pages if needed.)*

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

The selection committee would like to know more about your personal story.

Please describe how any obstacles and/or achievements that you have encountered in your life have helped shape your decision to pursue a post-secondary education. Please include some thoughts on what you hope to gain from this additional education.