

Seminole ISD



SHARS Grow Your Own (GYO) Teacher Program Pathway 2

Guidelines & Procedures

Seminole ISD
SHARS (School Health and Related Services) Scholarship Program

Overview of Program

SHARS (School Health and Related Services) is a Medicaid reimbursement for direct services for special education students who are Medicaid eligible. Seminole ISD receives SHARS reimbursement for a variety of services including speech, physical, and occupational therapy as well as nursing and diagnostician services for eligible students. Seminole ISD has chosen to set up a scholarship program with the funds reimbursed to the district for these services by Medicaid. The Grow Your Own (GYO) scholarship program is designed to assist current Seminole ISD employees and/or recent Seminole High School graduates financially as they pursue teaching degrees that will benefit the students of Seminole ISD. The Seminole ISD Board of Trustees has determined that the GYO program serves a public purpose and provides an educational benefit to Seminole ISD.

Grow Your Own Teacher Pathways - Eligibility, Obligations and Funding

- **Pathway 2**- Recent SHS graduates seeking an EC-6 elementary teacher certification who will apprentice with the district in some capacity. This pathway is only available through Odessa College. This is a competitive grant. Applicants must meet the following requirements:
 - Must apply and receive the [Wrangler Promise](#).
 - Must be an employed apprentice with the District for the entirety of the program.
 - Must complete a FAFSA application.
 - Must apply for financial aid through the college or university.
 - Must inform the district of any awarded financial aid, grants or scholarships.
 - Proof of enrollment and registration schedule must be submitted before the first day of class to the Administrative Assistant for the Superintendent.
 - Must maintain a minimum of 2.0 GPA and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hrs per semester.
 - Recipients will be reimbursed for actual tuition, fees, and books (specified in syllabus) within 30 days upon successful completion of the course or certification requirements.
 - Submit to the Seminole ISD HR Department each semester official transcripts with grades reported.
 - Must maintain continuous enrollment each semester until completion of degree/certification unless approved by the SHARS committee.
 - Recipients must agree to work for Seminole ISD for a period of three years after successfully completing certification/education/internship.
 - Failure to complete the specified amount of employment with Seminole ISD will result in the recipient being required to repay all money reimbursed by Seminole ISD for the certification/education process.
 - If the recipient resigns from the district prior to completing the

certification/education process, the recipient will be required to repay all money reimbursed by Seminole ISD for the certification/education process.

- Failure to complete approved programs in their entirety will result in an obligation to repay all money reimbursed through the SHARS program, even if the candidate continues employment in Seminole ISD.
- In the event the recipient is obligated to repay any money from the SHARS scholarship program, the District will pursue all necessary avenues to recoup these funds; including, but not limited to legal action.
- Failure to follow any of the above may result in removal from the SHARS program.

Application Process - *PATHWAYS 2 or 3 ONLY*

- Applications are available on the Seminole ISD Website. Completed applications must be submitted in accordance with the application deadline.
 - Go to the site: seminoleisd.net
 - Select **Campuses** near the top of the page
 - Select **High School**
 - Click on **About Us**
 - Select **Counselors**
 - Select **Scholarships**
 - Click **GYO Scholarship Pathway 2 link**
- Or
- Click **GYO Scholarship Pathway 3 link**
- The SHARS Scholarship Committee will review applications and approve/deny funding.
- Recipients will be responsible for paying for the requested courses, TEXES fees etc. and will be reimbursed after providing documentation for successful completion.
- All applications will be reviewed and approved or denied by the 10th day after the application deadline.

Application Deadlines

- Fall Semester Apply by June 15
- Spring Semester Apply by November 15
- Summer Semester Apply by April 15

Committee

- All applications will be reviewed and approved or denied by the SHARS Scholarship Committee.
- The committee will consist of the Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Financial Officer.

Steps to follow:

- Submit SHARS Application through Eduphoria **BEFORE the deadline** (each semester)
- Send the superintendent's administrative assistant proof of enrollment once you register.
- Once you receive an email notification of approval you are ready to either use your personal funds OR visit with the credit union about borrowing the funds to pay for your school expenses.
- Once you complete the semester add up tuition and book expenses and submit a SHARS Reimbursement Form through Eduphoria for that amount. (***NOTE: We will only reimburse up to the amount you were approved for - any additional money spent is the applicant's responsibility***).
- Email tuition and book receipts along with grades for the semester to the superintendent's administrative assistant.
- Once we review all expenses we will process payment to either the applicant or the credit union as noted on the SHARS Reimbursement form.

Superintendent's Administrative Assistant

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