

# MELODY BURTON SCHOLARSHIP

## FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

**Application deadline:**

**Friday, May 03, 2024**



*A Teacher*  
is a compass that activates  
the magnets of *curiosity*  
*knowledge & wisdom*  
in the pupils.  
Ever Garrison

### The Tribute

The Melody Burton Scholarship for Future Teachers was established in 1995 by the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, Inc. The scholarship commemorates the life and education of Melody Burton, a teacher in Orange County Public Schools district who lost her battle with cancer in 1993.

The scholarship is administered by the Human Resources Department of Orange County Public Schools and was funded by a grant from the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, Inc.

The purpose of the Melody Burton Scholarship is to increase the number of high quality teachers available for Orange County school district classrooms. Critical areas are identified each year by the school district. The endorsement will provide financial assistance for the **OCPS paraprofessional or classroom assistant (program assistant)** interested in teaching in these critical areas.

### The Agreement

The scholarship recipient (s) are expected to teach at least three years in Orange County Public Schools following completion of **Baccalaureate Degree in Education**. The tuition loan will be forgiven upon completion of three years in a full-time instructional position with the Orange County Public School District.

If the Melody Burton scholar does not accept employment with Orange County Public Schools or fails to complete the program, repayment of the scholarship is required. The loan will be forgiven if the school system is unable to offer employment within one year of program completion.

### IMPORTANT ELIGIBILITY NOTICE:

- Scholar must be **currently** enrolled in a college or university in order to qualify for the scholarship.
- Applicant must be in a **Paraprofessional or Classroom Program Assistant position** currently working in Orange County Public School, and must have completed an A.A degree or have at least 60 college credit hours with a 2.5 GPA, but not have completed a Bachelors degree.
- Preference will be given to applicants currently working in a “high-needs” school.
- Financial assistance for tuition shall be awarded based on the number of qualified recipients per year.

### Application Checklist

- ⇒ Complete application Pages 3-5
- ⇒ **An official statement of all financial assistance applied for or awarded from the college/university. Must indicate the original amount, amount awarded, and the remaining balance (what you owe).**
- ⇒ Attach college transcript (s) showing 60 credit hours or an AA degree earned with a 2.5 GPA.
- ⇒ Three (3) letters of recommendations from School Administrators, Guidance Counselors, Teachers and/or Employers.
- ⇒ One page essay responding to the question, “Why I have chosen a career in education and how will this scholarship benefit me?” Be sure to include the **degree you are seeking, critical subject area** you would like to teach and grammatically correct.



## The Selection Process

Selecting the recipient (s) is administered by the Human Resources Department at OCPS. A panel will select the recipient (s). Inquires about this scholarship and requests for an application should be made directly to:

## Valencia Foundation

The Valencia Foundation seeks to provide sufficient scholarships to ensure that no Central Florida resident is denied access to at least an associate degree.

Endowments provide Valencia with predictable and assured resources of financial assistance that guarantee economic access to higher education for those most in need.

**For questions email:**  
**recruitment@ocps.net**

## Scholarship Award for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

### 2024-2025 Shortage

#### Critical Subject Areas:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Elementary, ESOL, Exceptional Student Ed. (ESE)

#### High-Needs School Qualifications:

- Title I
- School Transformation Office (STO) Schools

#### Certification Areas include:

- English
- Exceptional Student Ed. (ESE)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Math
- Reading
- Science (General)
- Science (Physical)



*Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops.*

*Henry Brooks Adams*

# Statement of Applicant

## *The Program Participants hereby agree to:*

- Be currently enrolled in a college or university (must provide proof)
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 for each semester and cumulatively.
- Maintain regular attendance
- Abstain from use of illegal drugs
- Be a law abiding citizen
- Complete postsecondary education within a five-year period of time
- Provide an official transcript and financial statement at the beginning of each semester and at the end of each semester.
- Submission of the Spring semester's classes affirms your continued desire to become a certified teacher for Orange County Public Schools
- Committing to teach for Orange County Public Schools district for 3 years
- **Scholarship Renewal:** Renewable yearly on the condition that the recipient maintains a 2.5 or higher grade point average, provide current transcript, class schedule (Fall/Spring), submit a current financial statement, and sends an annual thank you letter to the donor.

A student who fails a component of this agreement or does not make expected progress may be placed on probationary status for a period not to exceed two semesters or be removed from the program by written recommendation of the program administrator.

Any student on probation who fails to achieve satisfactory progress on all components of the agreement for two successive semesters shall be removed from the program.

If the student complies with the terms of this agreement, the Melody Burton Scholarship program sponsored by The Foundation for Orange County Schools will endeavor to provide financial assistance toward completing the requirement for a bachelor's degree in education and assistance with placement upon graduation.

## The Applicant certifies that:

I have read and understand the conditions of the Orange County Public Schools, Inc. Melody Burton Scholarship Program Application.

I declare my personal intent upon earning a bachelor's degree in education is to teach in Orange County Public Schools.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Application to**

**recruitment@ocps.net**

**No later than Friday, May 03, 2024**

# Application Deadline: Friday, May 03, 2024

PRINT, COMPLETE AND RETURN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING PAGES 3-5.  
LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

## Applicant Information

Last	First	MI.	Cell Phone #
Street	APT #	Personal Email Address	
City	State	Zip Code	

## Work Information

School (Employer)	Work Phone #	Is this a Title I School?
Current Job Title	Personnel #	Work Email Address
Name of Principal		

## Education Information

ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT(S) AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Invoice from the school showing tuition, awards, and balance-what you owe)

Are you currently enrolled in a College or University? Will this be your first time earning a Bachelors degree?

1

Name of Enrolled School	Student ID#	Degree/Major	
Phone	Fax	# of Credit Hours Earned	GPA

2

List any previous schools attended

Street	City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Fax	Credit Hours Earned	GPA

3

School			
Street	City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Fax	Credit Hours Earned	GPA

**Melody Burton Scholarship**

# Recommendations

Provide the names of 3 people you have contacted for your recommendations. Please include school administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, and/or employers. All letters of recommendations should be signed, dated and on the school or company letterhead. (Attach your three (3) recommendation letters to your completed application.)

1

Last	First	M.
Agency	Title	Phone
Street	APT #	
City	State	Zip Code

2

Last	First	M.
Agency	Title	Phone
Street	APT #	
City	State	Zip Code

3

Last	First	M.
Agency	Title	Phone
Street	APT #	
City	State	Zip Code

# Essay

Include with your application a one page, typed, double spaced essay that answers the question below. In addition, include in your essay the **degree you are seeking, critical subject area** you would like to teach and grammatically correct.

*Question: "Why I have chosen a career in education and how will this scholarship benefit me?"*