



IRSPA

**Council Bluffs Area Retired School
Personnel Unit**

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2 DuPont CIR
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-4806
January, 2026

To school counselors, administration, teachers, and staff: Thank you! You have a huge job to do anymore and we appreciate all that you do every day with students in Iowa.

Council Bluffs Area Retired School Personnel is one unit that is part of the larger state organization, Iowa Retired School Personnel Association. We have contacted you to get your help getting the word out about our state organization's scholarship.

pH (Parent/Guardian in Heaven) Scholarships will be awarded in May to 2025 graduating seniors in the state's six districts. These scholarships will be presented at district meetings being held around the state. **Also, we want you to be aware that these scholarships will be given in all districts, every year. This is a change from the past, so please keep us on your scholarship list.**

We have enclosed paperwork and information with this letter. Here is the link from the state organization's website that may be helpful to you: <https://irspa.org/index.php/about/scholarships>

We know there are many students who have lost a parent or guardian and would find our scholarship helpful.

If we can be of further help, please feel free to ask!

Diane Johnson
Vice-President
Council Bluffs Area Retired School Personnel
(712) 325-0516 (H)

Enclosures:

-copies of scholarship paperwork

IRSPA is proud to present a scholarship to a senior graduating in May of the current school year 2025-2026

The Parent in Heaven (PH) Balance Scholarship

The PH Balance Scholarship is intended for a high school senior who, at any time in his/her life, has lost a parent or legal guardian and forever feels that void. As educators and people who have worked in some capacity with children in the schools, we know the importance of family and parents. When the unspeakable happens, we want students to know that we understand and wish to bring some balance into his/her life in the form of a scholarship.

Our \$1,000 scholarship will be presented during the May 2026 District meetings. The students will be selected from schools within all six IRSPA Districts. Refer to the attached chart of Iowa counties to determine your district.

Qualifying students may plan on attending a four-year college, a community college, or a technical school with plans to earn a degree or diploma for their desired field of study. The scholarship is payable to the school after the successful completion of the first semester and continued enrollment for the second semester. Applications may be obtained by contacting an IRSPA District Coordinator, Scholarship Chair of IRSPA (Jean Hoffman), or by going to irspa.org, About tab, scholarship.

NOTE: Fill out the document and save to your drive, documents, or cloud and then create a new email and attach the application as well as the other required documents in pdf format and send to phbalance2021@gmail.com. Put all attachments in **one** email. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

The application **deadline is March 1 of your senior year.**

Have all documents and letters of recommendation in **pdf format.**




Email all documents in **one** email to: phbalance2021@gmail.com

Include the following documents with the application cover sheet on the next page **in the following order: *Incomplete applications will not be considered.***

1. Application cover sheet
2. Qualifying letter: a letter or document of proof that a parent or legal guardian has passed away.
3. A copy of your high school transcripts:
4. A 200 word essay explaining what this would mean to you as a child who has lost a parent and how this scholarship will help in achieving your life goals.
5. Reference letters: Include three (3) letters of references from three (3) of the following varied categories: teacher, community member, employer, a faith related leader, an extra-curricular coach, a school administrator, an adult sponsor of a club or organization outside of school.
6. Have all documents in **pdf format** and email them in **one** email to phbalance2021@gmail.com by **March 1 of your senior year.**

Questions may be directed to Jean Hoffman at 42teacher@gmail.com or to phbalance2021@gmail.com.



Application Cover Sheet

As teachers or people involved with schools, we understand the necessity of the support that comes from the home and the void that is created when a child loses a parent, both parents, or legal guardian due to death. There is a void that can never be fully filled. The PH stands for a parent in heaven. Balance is the support that is given to the child in the form of a scholarship. We know that nothing can ever fill that void or bring the parent back, but we want the child and his/her family to know that no matter when or how you lost your parent, we recognize that void and would love to show you our support and wishes for a bright future.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

High School: _____

IRSPA District (refer to chart on next 2 pages) _____

Date of High School graduation: _____

Plans to attend post high school education at _____

Desired Field of Study: _____

Please return this page with your application.

District 1: Northwest Iowa		District 2: North Central Iowa		District 3: Northeast Iowa
Lyon	Cherokee	Kossuth	Bremer	Howard
Osceola	Buena Vista	Winnebago	Webster	Winneshiek
Dickenson	Pocahontas	Worth	Hamilton	Allamakee
Emmet	Woodbury	Mitchell	Hardin	Fayette
Sioux	Ida	Hancock	Grundy	Clayton
O'Brien	Sac	Cerro Gordo	Carroll	Black Hawk
Clay	Calhoun	Floyd	Creene	Buchanan
Palo Alto	Monona	Chickasaw	Boone	Delaware
Plymouth	Crawford	Humboldt	Story	Dubuque
		Wright	Marshall	Benton
		Franklin	Tama	Linn
		Butler		Jones
				Jackson

**District 4:
Southwest Iowa**

Harrison

Madison

Shelby

Mills

Audubon

Montgomery

Guthrie

Adams

Dallas

Union

Pottawattamie

Clark

Cass

Fremont

Adair

Page

Taylor

Ringgold

Decatur

**District 5:
South Central Iowa**

Polk

Jasper

Poweshick

Warren

Marion

Mahaska

Lucas

Monroe

Wapello

Wayne

Appanoose

Davis

**District 6:
Southeast Iowa**

Iowa

Johnson

Cedar

Clinton

Scott

Keokuk

Washington

Muscatine

Louisa

Jefferson

Henry

Des Moines

Van Buren

Lee