

**El Camino Real District #20  
AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

**2026 TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRANTS**



JANUARY 2026

**The El Camino Real District 20 AHEPA Scholarship Foundation** for the first time is offering grants to qualified students who are enrolled in an accredited\* technical, trade, or vocational school. Applicants must also be current members of **District 20's** Sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena, Daughters of Penelope, or Order of AHEPA, for at least one full year prior to applying, **OR** are children of parents who are current members of **District 20's** Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope for at least one full year prior to their son/daughter applying for a scholarship (Parents must be residents of District 20).

The attached application is available early so that all applicants may have adequate time to complete and mail their application packets postmarked by

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

Additional applications may be obtained from our District 20 website <http://ahepadistrict20.org> or by contacting me by telephone at (805) 895-0975 or email: [cmsgreek@aol.com](mailto:cmsgreek@aol.com) .

Sincerely,

***Carol Stathopoulos***

Carol Stathopoulos  
President, Scholarship Foundation

Attachments

- 1) Application,
- 2) \*Accredited schools must appear on either of the lists referred to on **page 3** of the **supplemental information** attached to the application.

El Camino Real District #20  
AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

**2026 TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRANTS**

Information List

***The El Camino Real District #20 AHEPA Scholarship Foundation*** is proud to provide a limited number of grants for worthy Technical, Trade or Vocational students. Students themselves must be members of District 20's Sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena, Daughters of Penelope, or Order of AHEPA for at least one full year prior to applying , or whose parents are current members of District 20's Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope for at least one full year prior to applying. (Parents must be residents of District 20).

***A student may not receive more than two (2) technical, trade, or vocational grants.***

**To be considered for a technical, trade, or vocational grant, the applicant must:**

1. Provide either proof of enrollment in an accredited technical, trade, or vocational school program for the 2026-2027 school year or demonstrate satisfactory progress as defined by your school. Applicants should also be in good standing and not on probation at the time of application. A transcript or a letter on school stationery indicating satisfactory progress is required.
2. Prepare a typewritten personal essay of 500 words or less describing career aspirations, honors, awards, extracurricular and community activities, and participation in AHEPA family activities. Include the name of the technical, trade, or vocational school you are expecting to attend. Identify the essay with your name. (Statements not to exceed a single page.)
3. Provide a letter of recommendation on official stationery from a clergy member, teacher, professor, or counselor.
4. Provide an official transcript of high school grades if you are applying as a graduating high school senior.
5. Provide an official transcript of all college/higher educational institution grades earned, if applicable.
6. AHEPA Family verification of your membership or your parents' membership of at least one (1) full year prior to the date of this application. (page 4)

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**2026 TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRANTS**

Personal Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) permanent mailing address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

List your high school(s) and all educational and technical schools of higher learning attended, beginning with the most recent:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List school, community, and church organizations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List honors received in school and community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRANTS

For your application to be considered, the following items must be included in your packet:

### Check List:

- All applications must include the following:
  - Pages 2,
  - 3, (signature and date)
  - 4,
  - 5.
  
- Official original transcript(s) in a separate, sealed envelope from your school, or letter on official stationery indicating satisfactory progress (**copies or faxes not accepted**). **Official transcripts or letters may be e-mailed directly – prior to midnight, Pacific Standard Time, May 2, 2026**, to:  

[elcamino20sch@gmail.com](mailto:elcamino20sch@gmail.com)
  
- Personal essay.
  
- Letter of recommendation.
  
- Headshot photograph approximately 2x2”.

Place all items in a 9 x 12” envelope and send via US Mail postmarked no later than **May 2, 2026**.

**LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Applicant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail application packet to:

**Carol Stathopoulos  
3065 E. Packard Drive  
Gilbert, AZ 85298-8728**

Questions? Call (805) 895-0975 or Email: [cnsgreekg@aol.com](mailto:cnsgreekg@aol.com)

# 2026 TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRANTS

## CHAPTER ENDORSEMENT

We, the undersigned officers of Chapter \_\_\_\_\_,  
Number \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ (City, State),  
hereby certify that the application of \_\_\_\_\_ has  
received the official endorsement of our chapter.

**Check one:**

- The **applicant** is a member in good standing of District 20 (**Sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena, Order of AHEPA, or Daughters of Penelope**) for at least **one (1) full year** prior to applying for this scholarship - **OR** -
- The **parent of the applicant** is a member in good standing of District 20 Order of AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope for at least **one (1) full year** prior to their son/daughter applying for this scholarship.

Applicant's or Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

	Chapter Name & Number	National ID Number
Order of AHEPA	_____	_____
Daughters of Penelope	_____	_____
Sons of Pericles	_____	_____
Maids of Athena	_____	_____

**Both Signatures are required:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Chapter President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Chapter Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone number**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO APPLICANT FOR MAILING.**

**TO BE CONSIDERED, THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE APPLICATION PACKET (POSTMARKED)**

**On OR before May 2, 2026**

Your signature below indicates your understanding and agreement to the following conditions regarding the payment of a **Technical, Trade, or Vocational School Grant** from the

**El Camino Real District 20 AHEPA Scholarship Foundation.**

IRS regulations state grant funds may only be used for:

- Tuition and fees required for enrollment, and
- Fees, books, supplies and equipment required for courses of instruction at the educational organization.

**Funds made payable directly to the student require the student's signature below acknowledging they understand and agree to the conditions stated above.**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION – TECHNICAL, TRADE, VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

A **technical school** is an educational institution that provides **career-focused, skills-based training** for specific occupations. Instead of broad academic study, these schools emphasize **hands-on learning**, practical experience, and job-ready competencies.

A technical school teaches the **specific technical skills** required for particular careers, often in fields such as:

- Information technology
- Healthcare
- Engineering technologies
- Skilled trades
- Manufacturing
- Automotive and mechanical fields

Programs usually lead to a **certificate, diploma, or associate degree**, and they typically take **a few months to two years** to complete.

### How It Differs From Related Schools

- **Trade schools** focus more on manual or hands-on professions (e.g., welding, plumbing).
- **Vocational schools** offer career-specific training but may not grant associate degrees.
- **Technical schools** often include more technology-oriented or specialized programs and may offer degrees.

### What Are Technical and Trade Schools and How to Find the Best One for You

When it comes to planning your future, there's no one-size-fits-all path. While many students head to college to earn a [bachelor's degree](#), technical schools are another great option for you to consider. These schools focus on preparing you for specific careers through hands-on learning and practical training.

### What Is a Technical School?

Technical schools are educational institutions that focus on teaching specific skills needed for particular careers. Unlike traditional four-year colleges that offer a broader education, technical schools focus on job-specific training.

Programs at technical schools typically last less than four years. They often lead to certifications, diplomas, or associate degrees in industries like:

- Healthcare (e.g., [nursing assistants](#))
- Technology (e.g., [IT specialists](#))

### What is a Trade School?

A trade school, often called a vocational or career school, is a type of technical school that focuses on teaching skills for hands-on careers in fields like construction, manufacturing, and skilled trades.

- Trades (e.g., [electricians](#))
- Creative fields (e.g., [culinary arts](#))

## What is a Vocational School?

A vocational school focuses on career-specific training, like medical assisting or IT support, and can offer more variety than trade schools, which specializes in skilled trades. Unlike technical schools, vocational schools typically don't offer associate degrees but focus on hands-on training for direct entry into the workforce.

## Why Consider a Technical School?

Here are a few reasons why technical schools might be worth exploring:

1. **You want to start working sooner:** Technical schools get straight to the point, preparing you for the workforce in one to two years.
2. **Lower costs:** Technical schools can often be a more affordable option.
3. **You like learning by doing:** Technical schools offer hands-on training that gets you ready for real-world work.
4. **You need flexibility:** Many technical schools have part-time or evening options, so you can fit classes into your schedule.

## How to Find Technical Schools

Finding the right technical school is an important step in your career journey. [Use the College Search Tool to explore your options.](#)

1. **Filter for technical schools:** Click **Type** in the College Search Tool, check the box for Career and Technical schools, and then click on **Show Colleges**.
2. **Match programs to your interests:** Whether you're into healthcare, tech, or trades, look for schools offering programs that align with your goals. Compare costs: Check out tuition and financial aid details to find a school that fits your budget.
3. **Explore outcomes:** See stats on graduation rates, job placement, and starting salaries to make an informed decision.
4. **Save your favorites.** [Sign in](#) to start your college list and revisit your options as you plan your next steps.

To learn more about technical schools and other pathways, [explore the many options](#) available to find the right fit for your future.

## Accreditation for technical schools?

Accreditation is one of the most important things to check when evaluating a technical school, because it affects **financial aid, credit transfer, employer recognition, and the overall legitimacy of the program**. Since you're already looking at a College Board page about technical and trade schools, it's a perfect moment to break this down clearly and tie it to what you're researching.

### What Accreditation Means

Accreditation is a **quality assurance process** in which an independent agency evaluates a school or program to ensure it meets established standards. For technical schools, this can happen at two levels:

#### 1. Institutional Accreditation

This covers the entire school. Two major types exist:

- **Regional accreditation** Considered the gold standard. Credits are more widely transferable.
- **National accreditation** Common among technical, trade, and career-focused schools. Still legitimate, but credits may not transfer to regionally accredited colleges.

## 2. Programmatic (Specialized) Accreditation

Specific programs—especially in healthcare, engineering technologies, or skilled trades—may have their own accrediting bodies. Examples include:

- **ACEN** for nursing
- **ABET** for engineering technology
- **ASE** for automotive programs
- **CAAHEP** for allied health

Programmatic accreditation is often required for **licensure**, so it’s worth checking if your intended career path demands it.

### How to Check Whether a Technical School Is Accredited

A reliable school will make accreditation easy to verify. You can check:

#### ✓ The school’s website

Look for an “Accreditation” or “About” page.

#### ✓ The U.S. Department of Education Database

The **Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs (DAPIP)** lists all recognized accreditors.

#### ✓ The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

CHEA maintains a directory of recognized accrediting organizations.

#### ✓ Program-specific accrediting bodies

If you’re entering a regulated field (e.g., nursing, HVAC, medical assisting), check the accreditor’s website directly.

## Why Accreditation Matters for Technical Schools

- **Federal financial aid eligibility.** Only accredited schools can offer Pell Grants, federal loans, etc.
- **Employer recognition.** Many employers require accredited training for hiring.
- **Licensure and certification.** Some professions require graduation from an accredited program.
- **Transferability.** If you ever want to continue your education, accreditation affects whether your credits move with you.

**Please note:** These supplemental pages are informational only. Please do your own research regarding accredited technical, trade, and vocational schools before completing the application.