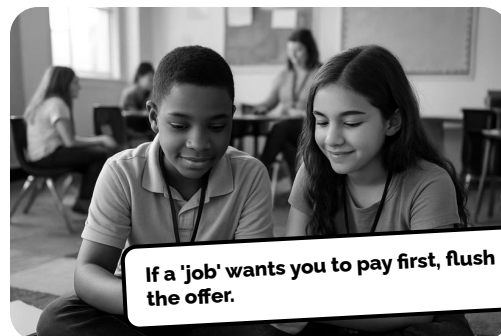


SCHOLARSHIP AND SUMMER JOB EDITION

Won a scholarship you never applied for? Hmm.

Spring brings scholarship deadlines and summer job hunts, and scammers copy both. Fake offers ask for a fee, your Social Security number or your bank login before you've ever talked to a real person.



1

Real jobs pay you, not the other way

Never pay for a job, a training kit or an 'equipment check'. If someone sends you a check and asks you to send part of it back, it's a scam: the check bounces and you owe the money.



2

Scholarships don't charge to apply

Run any scholarship you didn't apply for past your school counselor. Real scholarships don't need a 'processing fee' or your bank login to pay you.



3

Guard your Social Security number

Give your SSN only after you've checked out the employer and accepted a real offer, on official hiring forms, with a parent, guardian or counselor helping you.



Spot the scam



Email

External

Brightpath Futures Scholarship Fund <awards@brightpath-futures-fund.example>

Congratulations, you've been selected

Dear Student, you have been selected for a \$5,000 scholarship based on your school record. To release your award, pay a \$49 processing fee and reply with your Social Security number and bank login for direct deposit. Respond within 24 hours or your award goes to an alternate. Do not discuss this with your counselor, as all awards are confidential.

Spot the scam: how many red flags can you find?

Red flags I found: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Look for: surprise, urgency, secrecy, an unusual payment method, a sender or link you can't confirm.

FUN FACT

Job scams are booming. Losses reported to the FBI's IC3 from employment scams jumped from about \$70 million in 2023 to about \$363 million in 2025, more than five times as much.

Source: FBI IC3 2025 Internet Crime Report



Your 60-second move

Ask your counselor for three trusted scholarship or job sites and bookmark them. Search there, not in random DMs.



Who do I tell?

Name / ext. _____

Report channel _____

ANSWER

Five flags: a prize you never applied for, a fee, a request for your SSN and bank login, a 24-hour deadline and 'don't tell your counselor'. Smart move: don't reply or click. Show it to your counselor, and look up any scholarship yourself instead of using links in the email.

- You can't win a scholarship you never applied for.
- Real scholarships don't charge a fee to pay you.
- Nobody needs your SSN and bank login to send you money.
- A 24-hour deadline keeps you from checking.
- Cutting out your counselor cuts out your best fact-checker.



Scan for a 2-minute lesson on Pause, Verify, Report

Free, no sign-in - k12cyberforward.com/learn