



Dr. Mike McIlwain Scholarship Application

About the Scholarship

In 2025, Dr. Mike McIlwain passed away after a year-long battle with a rare form of cancer. For more than 20 years, he served patients at McIlwain Dental Specialists as a pediatric dentist, leaving a lasting impact on countless families throughout the Tampa community. Dr. Mike was known for more than his clinical skill, he was known for his compassion. He was one of the few pediatric dentists in the area who regularly treated special needs patients, performed sedation both in-office and at St. Joseph's Hospital, and contributed his expertise as a member of the Tampa Bay Cleft and Craniofacial Center.

More than anything, he believed in one principle: never turn away a patient in need. To honor that legacy, McIlwain Dental Specialists established the Dr. Mike McIlwain Scholarship, an annual award designed to support patients facing financial challenges and help them move forward in meaningful ways.

Scholarship Overview

The Dr. Mike McIlwain Scholarship provides **\$5,000 annually** to a selected recipient based on financial need and personal impact. This scholarship is intentionally flexible. It is not limited to traditional academic use and may be applied toward a variety of needs, including but not limited to:

- Educational expenses (tuition, books, certifications)
- Career or professional development opportunities
- Personal or family-related financial hardships
- Athletic/Extracurricular Activities
- Other meaningful needs that support the applicant's future

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current or former patient of McIlwain Dental Specialists
- Have been an active patient for at least one year
- Be 15 years of age or older
- Clearly explain how the funds will be used

Note: Additional documentation to verify academic achievements and other information may be requested during the review process.

Application and Selection Process

Applicants will be asked to submit a written statement explaining their situation, and the reason they should be chosen to be the recipient of the scholarship. **The application can be completed either on paper or electronically, however it is recommended to complete electronically.** After the applications close, recipients are selected by an anonymous committee composed of doctors and team members of McIlwain Dental Specialists.

Timeline

Applications open: **April 1st, 2026**

Deadline: **June 6th, 2026**

All applicants will be informed of their decision within 2 months of the deadline. The information may come through an email and/or a phone call.



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Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Written Statement

Please explain:

- Your current situation
- What the scholarship would go toward
- How this scholarship would make a meaningful difference
- Anything else that may help the committee better understand you, and why you should be the recipient of the Dr. Mike McIlwain Scholarship

Additional Information

While not required to submit now, additional information may be requested during the selection process. Some examples of additional information are:

- Proof of How Funds will be Used (Examples: Tuition Bill, Enrollment Statement, Invoice, etc.)
- Education/Career Verification (Acceptance Letter, Enrollment Confirmation, etc.)
- Resume/Activity Statement/Academic Information (Transcript(s), SAT/ACT Scores, Resumes, Community/Work Experience, School Involvement, etc.)

Honor Agreement

By submitting an application and signing your name below, applicants acknowledge and agree to the following:

- Information provided in the application is accurate to the best of their knowledge
- McIlwain Dental Specialists may request additional documentation and verify information as needed
- If selected, scholarship funds will be used for the purpose described in the application
- Recipients may be asked to provide documentation confirming the use of funds

McIlwain Dental Specialists reserves the right to modify or discontinue the scholarship program at any time.

Signature

Today's Date

Thank you for completing the Dr. Mike McIlwain Scholarship Application, please email this completed and signed application, your written statement, and any additional information you wish to submit to grayson@mcilwaindentistry.com.

If you have any questions, please email Grayson McIlwain in the email given above.