



Illinois  
Retail Merchants  
Association

# Illinois Retail Scholarship Challenge

Win up to \$60k per team!

As the first retail scholarship of its kind, the Illinois Retail Scholarship Challenge strives to ignite the spirit of innovation & creativity among the state's high school students.

*ARE YOU READY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF RETAIL?*

We're looking for students from across Illinois to solve real-world challenges in the retail industry. The Illinois Retail Scholarship Challenge is a new statewide competition where teams of high school seniors can apply their creativity and strategic thinking to today's most pressing retail issues - and have the chance to be awarded a scholarship!

**Who should apply?**

Open to all Illinois high school seniors (in teams of 2-4 students) who are passionate about retail & who have the creativity & drive to solve a real retail problem. If you have great ideas & the drive to solve problems, we encourage you to apply!

**WHY PARTICIPATE?**

- **Win a scholarship:** Winning teams will earn a college scholarship of up to \$60,000.
- **Gain real-world experience:** Work on a real-world problem in collaboration with a leading retail partner.
- **Boost your resume:** Showcase your problem-solving skills and innovative thinking to potential employers.
- **Receive mentorship:** Get guidance and insights from retail industry experts and professionals on the judging panel.
- **Network:** Connect with fellow students, professors, and professionals in the retail sector.

**Deadline to apply: March 30, 2026**

**How to apply:**

Visit [www.irma.org](http://www.irma.org) to learn more, download official rules & submit your team's intent to participate.

Questions? Contact:

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Funding provided in part by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.