

## District Scholarship Guidelines

District Scholarships recognize graduating BC students for excellence in their chosen areas of interest or strength. These scholarships are intended to help students pursue post-secondary education. Recipients are awarded a \$1,250 voucher that can be used toward post-secondary education tuition at an accredited institution.

The award may be used to defray tuition costs in a program of study outside of the focus area in which it was given. However, through the application process, the recipient must demonstrate a commitment to their continued growth in the focus area in which the award was received.

To be considered for a scholarship, a student must apply to the district scholarship committee and:

- Meet the following basic eligibility requirements:
  - **Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) at the time of registration in the school year for which the scholarship is awarded.**
  - Must be a BC resident.
- Must be or have been:
  - Enrolled in an educational program offered by the school district (including Distributed Learning), or
  - Enrolled in a Continuing Education Centre, or
  - Registered with a school in the District as a homeschooled child in the school year for which the scholarship is awarded
- Meet criteria determined by the district scholarship committee, which requires a student to demonstrate outstanding achievement in any of the following focus areas:
  - **Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community.
  - **Fine Arts** (e.g., Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
  - **Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies** (e.g., Business, Technology, Home Economics, Media Arts, Tourism)
  - **Physical Activity and Health** (e.g., Athletics, Fitness, Outdoor Education, Dance, Gymnastics, not limited to Physical Education)
  - **International Languages** from the International Languages Curriculum or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses.
  - **Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes awareness of local, global, and cultural issues.
  - **Technical and Trades Training** (e.g. Coding, Culinary Arts, Mechanics, Robotics, Woodwork)
- Fulfill the BC graduation requirements of either the BC Graduation Program or the Adult Graduation Program by August 31st of the student's graduating year.

**To receive the monies from this award, it is necessary to enroll in and attend a full-time program at a designated (approved for Canada Student Loans) post-secondary institution or an approved apprenticeship program. Recipients have five years to redeem the award.**

Winners will receive a \$1,250 voucher in October/November 2024 that can be redeemed at a designated post-secondary institution or an authorized trades training provider, once tuition equal or greater than the amount of the voucher has been paid.

## Application Criteria – All Focus Areas

**Please Note:** Information about selection criteria and process are posted on the school district website.

- In addition to an application form, applications **must include** the following components:
  - **Cover letter:**
    - Introducing the applicant to the committee
    - Outlining motivation for pursuing the focus area.
    - Highlighting achievements.
    - Detailing personal/educational goals and plan for continued development in the focus area.
  - **Resume**
  - **Unofficial transcript:**
    - Applicants are reminded that a transcript is used by the committee to confirm commitment in the focus area.
    - In some focus areas, academic achievement demonstrated on the transcript is considered by the committee when determining awards.
  - **Minimum of two recommendation forms or reference letters** from any of the following:
    - Teachers or counsellors.
    - Principals or Vice-Principals.
    - Community sponsors or employers.
  - **Evidence of student learning or achievement in the chosen focus area**, and may include but are not limited to:
    - Submission of a project/portfolio (electronic or hardcopy), display or video.
    - Participation in an interview, performance or demonstration.
  - **Evidence of other attributes** such as, creativity, innovation, initiative, motivation, leadership, cooperation, good citizenship in school/community, attendance, punctuality, work habits.
  - **Confirmation of acceptance at a post-secondary institution.** In the event that a recipient is deferring the award for a year, a concrete plan must be provided for attending a post-secondary institution in the future.
- Applications are adjudicated by a committee at the district level under the supervision of the Superintendent or designate.
- Areas of interest for each scholarship recipient will be recorded and reported back to the Ministry each spring. Where possible, the scholarships are distributed equitably across the focus areas.

## Selection Criteria – Indigenous Languages and Culture

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate a meaningful interest in Aboriginal culture and in contributing to their communities, either on or off reserve with a willingness to 'give back' to community.
- Show a commitment to Aboriginal culture in and beyond the classroom setting. This may include but is not limited to:
  - Fine Art portfolio or examples -- photographs, video clip, class project, etc.
  - Active involvement in cultural events or conferences.
  - Letter of support—Band/Metis council, Elder, school counsellor, Aboriginal education teacher.
- Academic efforts in English First Peoples 10, 11 &/or 12, BC First Nations Studies 12, Social Justice 12, other relevant course work, or Indigenous language learning.
- Provide evidence of post-secondary acceptance into a program of their choosing. Priority may be given to students selecting an Indigenous or culturally relevant program (i.e. Aboriginal Language Revitalization program/Indigenous Family Support program, etc.).

## Selection Criteria – Fine Arts

Fine Arts focus areas include:

- Visual Arts
- Drama
- Music
- Dance
- Performing Arts/Musical Theater
- Media Arts/Film
- Creative Writing

Successful applicants will:

- Provide evidence of interest, achievement and/or aptitude in one or more areas of Fine Arts through electronic submissions e.g. images, recordings, demonstrations, performances, award certificates, writing samples.
- Indicate an enduring interest/commitment to the Fine Arts through future studies and/or community involvement.

## Selection Criteria – Applied Design, Skills, and Technology

Through their application the recipient will have demonstrated interest and aptitude in this focus area by outlining:

- Coursework, programs or certifications completed or in progress in this focus area.
- Highlight knowledge, skills, experience, and accomplishments gained through focused learning/training.
- Evidence of superior skills related to the area of focus.
- Detailed commitment to their continued development in this focus area.

## Selection Criteria -Physical Activity and Health

Through their application, the recipient will have demonstrated:

- Evidence of excellence in one or more physical activities/sports.
- Commitment to continuing to pursue participation in physical activity/sports.
- Criteria included for consideration would be:
  - Sportsmanship
  - Leadership
  - Attitude
  - Dedication

## Selection Criteria – International Languages

Through their application, the recipient will have demonstrated:

- Desire and an effort to improve their skills in the target language by completing at least one senior language course at the secondary or post-secondary level (Grade 11 or equivalent).
- Superior skills in the expression and comprehension of the target language. Examples demonstrating these skills may include, but are not limited to:
  - A composition purposely written to support the scholarship application (written in the target language)
  - Samples of written classroom assignments
  - Digital audio and/or video recordings
  - Where available, external assessments of competency in the target language
- Commitment to their continued development of competency in the target language
- **Students applying for International Languages must also include a video or audio submission that clearly demonstrates their proficiency in the target language.**

## Selection Criteria – Community Service

Through their application, the recipient will:

- Demonstrate a meaningful impact on school and community that fosters well-being and focuses on benefit to school and community.
- Provide evidence of strengthening the school and community through volunteer services.
- Demonstrate leadership qualities such as the ability to:
  - Inspire and encourage others (like one's peers) to action.
  - Achieve goals that engage others in projects and activities that may require effort, change, challenge, problem-solving.
- Examples of evidence may include:
  - Letters of support
  - References
  - Course Marks
  - Resume outlining experiences attained through the following:
    - Leadership Course Work/Activism
    - Volunteer Services
    - Project-Work
    - Community/Citizenship Recognition

## Selection Criteria – Technical and Trades Training

Through their application the recipient will have demonstrated interest and aptitude in technical or trades training, such areas of application may include:

- Coursework, programs or certifications completed or in progress in this focus area.
- Highlight knowledge, skills, experience, and accomplishments gained through focused learning/training.
- Evidence of superior skills related to the areas of focus.
- Registered with Skilled Trades BC (formerly ITA) having completed one of the District's TASK programs, Youth Train in Trades courses, or Youth Work in Trades.