

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, Film, Creative Writing, etc.)
 - **Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies** (e.g., Home Economics, Media Arts, Business, Technology, 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 November following graduation 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 Requirements – 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, display, or video. (included in your myBlueprint application)
 - 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 institute.
 - 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, Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, Social Justice 12 or other relevant course work:
 - 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 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

ADST focus areas include:

- Home Economics
- Business
- Media Arts
- Technology
- Tourism

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.