



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

Administration Guidelines District/Authority Scholarships

About the District/Authority Scholarship

Each year, 5,500 [District/Authority scholarships](#) are proportionally distributed across school districts and the independent school system through the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) based on September 30th Grade 12 enrolments.

The District/Authority scholarship recognizes high school graduates who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen area, within one of the following categories.

- **(APLSK) Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies** (e.g., Business, Technology, Home Economics, Media Arts, Tourism)
- **(COMSERV) Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes awareness of local, global, and cultural issues
- **(FINE) Fine Arts** (e.g., Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts)
- **(INDLC) Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community
- **(LNG) Languages** from the Languages Curriculum or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses
- **(PHYSAC) Physical Activity** (and Health) (e.g., Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics)
- **(TRADES) Technical and Trades Training** (e.g., Coding, Culinary Arts, Mechanics, Robotics, Woodwork)

The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets [core eligibility requirements](#) as well as the awarding guidelines outlined in this document. Boards of education and independent school scholarship committees have the responsibility and flexibility to determine their local awarding criteria and awarding processes, and to select their conditional recipients.

Students who are selected by their district/authority as conditional recipients of the scholarship must satisfy the following requirements **by August 31 of their graduating year** to be confirmed as a recipient and receive their scholarship voucher:

- [meet core eligibility requirements](#);
- fulfill the graduation requirements of either the [B.C. Certificate of Graduation](#) (Dogwood Diploma) or the [B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma](#) (Adult Dogwood); and,
- meet criteria determined by the student's local scholarship committee, including demonstration of outstanding achievement in one of the areas listed above.

Confirmed recipients receive a \$1,250 scholarship voucher. They can use this voucher to be reimbursed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care for tuition paid at a post-secondary institution that is [designated by the Province of B.C.](#) (i.e., approved for Canada Student Loans) or a program provider that is [approved by SkilledTradesBC](#).

Students have five years to [redeem](#) their District/Authority scholarship vouchers.

Key dates

- June 30: lists of conditional recipients due to Ministry of Education and Child Care
- September: conditional recipients checked against eligibility requirements
- November: paper scholarship vouchers mailed to confirmed recipients

Awarding Guidelines

When selecting recipients, boards of education and independent school scholarship committees are asked to follow the guidelines below.

1. Criteria, application forms, and selection processes should be consistent among schools within a school district/independent school authority.
2. Information about selection criteria and processes should be posted on the district/authority website or otherwise communicated in a transparent manner that is equally accessible among applicable schools and student populations.
3. The application should include evidence of student learning or achievement in their chosen area. This may include but is not limited to the following.
 - a. Submission of a project/portfolio (electronic or hard copy), display, or video.
 - b. Participation in an interview, performance, or demonstration.
4. Scholarship selection should be adjudicated by a committee, either at the district/authority or school level, as appropriate. Committee members may include but are not limited to the following.
 - a. Teachers
 - b. School administrators
 - c. Superintendent of Schools or designate
 - d. School Trustees
 - e. Parent Advisory Council representatives
 - f. Municipal Council representatives
 - g. Local business representatives
 - h. Community representatives

Although broad participation may be a challenge, especially in smaller communities, districts and authorities should strive for a cross-section of representation whenever possible.

5. The board of education or independent school authority is responsible for maintaining data and records to support their consistent and transparent scholarship criteria and selection processes.
6. Boards of education and independent school selection committees should consider the distribution of scholarships across the seven areas of interest.
7. Boards of education and independent school selection committees should consider whether selected recipients have an achievable plan for transition to a post-secondary education or training program within five years (i.e., before the scholarship expires); they should also keep in mind that students may only redeem their vouchers with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to be reimbursed for tuition paid at a post-secondary institution that is [designated by the Province of B.C.](#) (i.e., approved for Canada Student Loans) or a program provider that is [approved by the SkilledTradesBC](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a student win more than one District/Authority scholarship (for example, in two different areas of achievement)?

No. A student may only receive one District/Authority scholarship in their lifetime.

Can a student win a District/Authority scholarship if they graduate in the first semester of the school year?

Yes. If they satisfy [all eligibility requirements](#), students who graduate earlier in the school year can be awarded the scholarship. Reminder: students must be on record with the Ministry (via their school's student information system) as graduating in the same year they are chosen as a conditional recipient; previous and future graduates are not eligible. E.g., if a student is selected by their District/Authority for the 2021/22 awards year, they must graduate between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022.

How long do recipients have to redeem their scholarship vouchers with the Ministry of Education and Child Care for payment?

Recipients have five years from the date of issue to redeem a District/Authority scholarship. The expiry date will be printed on the voucher.

More information

District/Authority Scholarship Allocations, Reporting, and Sample Application

<https://www.gov.bc.ca/schooldistrict-authorityreporting>

General Provincial Scholarship Program Information

www.gov.bc.ca/scholarshipsprogram

Questions?

Please contact the Provincial Scholarships Program Team

scholarships@gov.bc.ca

250-356-2443