

## Ministry of Education: District/Authority Scholarship Guidelines

The District/Authority 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.

The Ministry will allocate 5500 awards pro-rated to school districts and independent school authorities based on their September 30<sup>th</sup> Grade 12 enrolments. The award is a \$1250 voucher that can be used toward post-secondary education tuition.

To win a scholarship, a student must apply to the local scholarship committee and:

- Meet the 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;
    - Note: Citizenship information is taken from the ministry's TRAX record system. Incomplete or incorrect data in the citizenship field could affect a student's eligibility for a scholarship.
  - Must be (or have been at the time of receipt) enrolled in, or registered as a home schooler with:
    - A British Columbia public school (including Distance Learning schools); or
    - A Group 1, 2, or 4 British Columbia independent school; or
    - A Continuing Education Centre
  
- Meet criteria determined by the local scholarship committee, which requires a student to demonstrate outstanding achievement in any of the following areas:
  - **NEW: Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community
  - **Fine Arts** (e.g., Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
  - **Applied Skills** (e.g., Business Education, Technology Education, Home Economics)
  - **Physical Activity** (e.g., Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, not limited to Physical Education)
  - **International Languages** with Integrated Resource Packages (IRPs) or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses
  - **Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes demonstration of local and global issues and cultural awareness
  - **Technical and Trades Training** (e.g., Carpentry, Automotive, Mechanics, Cook Training)
  
- Fulfill the BC graduation requirements of either the 2004 Graduation Program or the Adult Graduation Program by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the student's graduating year
  
- Have not previously received a District/Authority Award or a District/Authority Scholarship

## Guidelines

- 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 process should be posted on the district/authority web site.
- 3) Applications must include evidence of student learning or achievement in the chosen area of interest and may include but are not limited to:
  - a) Submission of a project/portfolio (electronic or hardcopy), display or video
  - b) Participation in an interview, performance or demonstration
- 4) In addition to an application form, applications may include a selection of the following components:
  - a) Reference letters or recommendation forms from teachers or community sponsors;
  - b) Resume;
  - c) Unofficial transcript;
  - d) Written statement of application or essay, outlining motivation for pursuing area of interest, impact of this involvement, highlights of achievement, personal/educational goals in this area and plan for attaining these goals; and
  - e) Evidence of other attributes such as, creativity, innovation, initiative, motivation, leadership, cooperation, good citizenship in school/community, attendance, punctuality, work habits.
- 5) Applications 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:
  - 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
- 6) Areas of interest for each scholarship recipient must be recorded and reported back to the Ministry using the spreadsheet template provided each spring. Where possible, school districts/independent school authorities should strive for equitable distribution of scholarships across the areas of interest.