



Ministry of Education 2019/2020 District/Authority Scholarship Guidelines

About the District/Authority Scholarship

Each year, the Ministry of Education allocates 5500 x \$1,250 scholarships across all 60 school districts and eligible independent school authorities. Allocations are proportionately allocated to each jurisdiction, based on September 30th Grade 12 enrolments. District/Authority scholarship recipients are then selected at the district or school level.

Goal

District/Authority Scholarships recognize graduating BC students for excellence in their chosen area of interest or strength. Specific areas of recognition are in the following categories:

- **(INDLC) Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community
- **(FINE) Arts** (e.g., Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- **(APLSK) Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies** (e.g., Business, Technology, Home Economics, Information Communication Technology, Media Arts, Tourism)
- **(PHYSAC) Physical Activity and Health** (e.g., Athletics, Fitness, Outdoor Education, not limited to Physical Education)
- **(INTLNG) International Languages** from the International Languages Curriculum or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses
- **(COMSERV) Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes awareness of local, global, and cultural issues
- **(TRADES) Technical and Trades Training** (e.g., Automotive, Robotics, Coding, Woodwork, Culinary Arts)

Eligibility and selection criteria

Boards of Education and independent school selection committees have the responsibility and flexibility to determine the most effective criteria and processes for recognizing students under this scholarship program. However, selected recipients must also meet eligibility requirements set by the Ministry of Education which may be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/district-authority-scholarships>

Guidelines

When selecting recipients, boards of education and independent school selection 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 process should be posted on the district/authority web site or otherwise communicated in a transparent manner that is equally accessible among applicable schools and student populations.
- 3) The adjudication process should include evidence of student learning or achievement in the chosen area of interest. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - a) Submission of a project/portfolio (electronic or hardcopy), 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:
 - 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

*In circumstances where adjudication by committee is not feasible (e.g. smaller communities), 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.

- 5) Boards of education and independent school selection committees should strive for equitable distribution of scholarships across different areas of recognition, wherever possible.
- 6) Boards of education and independent school selection committees should also consider whether selected recipients have an achievable plan for transition to a post-secondary education or training program within a 5-year time period (i.e. before the scholarship expires).

Some Frequently Asked Questions

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

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 meet the [basic eligibility requirements](#), students graduating earlier in the school year can be awarded the scholarship.

How long does a District/Authority scholarship winner have to redeem their award?

Recipients have 5 years, from the date of general issue by the Ministry of Education (typically the September after graduation), to redeem a District/Authority scholarship. Full details available at: [Using or Replacing a Scholarship](#).