



DISTRICT AUTHORITY AWARDS 2026

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

District Authority Awards are an opportunity to showcase your talents in **Elective Courses, Technical Trades and Training or Voluntary Community Service. A 100-hr. project and presentation are required.** Graduating students who qualify in one of the scholarship areas may compete within the school district for **\$1,250.00** offered by the Provincial Awards Program. If you win a \$1,250.00 voucher from the Ministry of Education will be applied toward tuition at a designated post-secondary institution.

For the winning candidates, your District Scholarship award will come directly from the Ministry of Education usually in the late fall (November) of the project exhibition year. The Abbotsford School district does not issue scholarship monies.

You will receive a voucher in the mail from the Ministry of Education that you will be able to redeem at your chosen post-secondary institute.

Per ministry guidelines the following is provided

- *"Winners are not confirmed until the Ministry establishes that eligibility requirements have been met after August 30th, 2026.*
- *Winners will be notified, and vouchers will be issued by the Ministry in October - December 2026*
- *Winners can also view whether a voucher has been issued by logging into the [Student Transcript Service](#)*
- *Winners will receive their cheques after they have returned their verified voucher or supporting documents to the Ministry for redemption*

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding how winning scholarships are received, please contact Scholarships@gov.bc.ca.

Additional information can be found here:

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

ELIGIBILITY

You must be a ...

- Full-time student, minimum of 16 credits completed in Grade 12 by Aug. 30, 2026.
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident as of Sept 28, 2025.
- See your Counsellor if you have any questions.

WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT AUTHORITY AWARD PROJECT/PROGRAM AREAS?

100 Hour Projects with a required display or presentation are offered in the following categories:

- 1. Fine Arts:** (Music, Drama, Dance, Art, Photography, Digital Music, Creative Writing)
- 2. Applied Skills, Technical Trades and Training:** (Business, Hair Design, Textiles, Culinary, Carpentry, Automotive, Drafting, Film/Video, Photography, Design Communications, Animation and Modeling, Horsemanship, SD34 Career Programs (CTC Programs): (Applied Business Technology, Carpentry-Green Construction, Architectural Drafting, Electrical, Animation Arts, Horticulture, Welding, Professional Cook, Heavy Equipment Operator, Hair Stylist, Automotive Service Technician.)
- 3. Engineering and Design:**
- 4. Physical Activity:** (i.e. Designing a swimming lesson program for younger students, carrying out lessons and documenting progress; Designing and instructing a workout routine for a sports team.)
- 5. International Languages:** (demonstrating proficiency in a language that is **not** native to you)
- 6. Voluntary Community Service:** 100 hrs. of voluntary community service (school and community)
- 7. Indigenous Studies:** Demonstrated at school and within the community

What do you have to do?

- Complete a project design and description and begin a project to demonstrate your talent and expertise in your particular category. Projects will be presented and adjudicated in April. You are required to spend a minimum of 100 hours on your project but in reality, most students spend many more hours than this. You may use some class time to work on your project but only 40% of your project can count toward a letter grade in a course or program. The majority of the project must be done outside of class. A rule of thumb would be 6 out of 10 hours or 60% of total time logged.
- Log and record your work. You need to present your logbook at time of adjudication as evidence of the work performed and your learning. (A sample Log format is attached to the end of this document. Feel free to copy and use this if you do not have one of your own.)

When can you start?

- The earliest you can start is July 1 of your graduating year.

How are you scored and what is required to qualify as a scholarship-eligible candidate?

- The bulk of your score is based on your project adjudication on District Scholarship presentation day in April. A minimum project score of 60% is required to be eligible for scholarship. Candidates must also meet graduation requirements by Aug. 30 in order to receive the Ministry of Education.
- Where applicants exceed the number of awards available, your grades from the top 5 courses (including a Language Arts 12) taken in the graduating year will be included in the calculation to make up 25% of a candidate's final score.

When and where are projects presented and adjudicated?

In general, all projects will be presented and adjudicated at your own school or virtually online between April and May. Be sure to speak with your scholarship counsellor to determine the exact schedule for your adjudication as we get closer to April. Early adjudication opportunities are available... please speak with your counsellor.

- **Fine Arts** presentations require tech and rehearsal times. Attending rehearsal is **mandatory**. Participants who miss assigned tech rehearsal times may not have their projects adjudicated. Tentatively, tech rehearsals will be scheduled for the morning, afternoon and evening before presentation day as facility availability permits. Participants must be available for their appointed times. Be sure to speak with your counsellor to determine the exact schedule and process of your adjudication.
- **Writing projects** (plays/scripts and creative writing) must be submitted by March 1st. (see further conditions below)
- **Community Service** projects will be adjudicated to a panel of adjudicators. Each student will have 10 minutes to present their community service project. Presentation appointments will be arranged and announced in advance. Again, these may be in person or online. Please confirm with your counsellor.
- **Technical Trades and Training Projects:** A 100 Hr. project and presentation is required in one of the TTT areas identified above.

How do I get my project to the presentation site?

- You are responsible for project transportation, set-up and removal. More information will be provided closer to the presentation date.

What if my plans change and I choose to defer my graduation to the following year?

- Course work and graduation requirements must be completed by August 30, 2026. Students who defer graduation to the next year will not be eligible for an award. This is specified in Ministry Award guidelines.

How are scholarships decided and what happens if I am deemed eligible?

- The adjudicated project score (60% minimum) will qualify you for a scholarship pending completion of graduation program requirements. (Before Aug. 30). After the School District submits the list of qualified candidates in early September, the Ministry of Education sends notification letters to eligible scholarship winners. A \$1250 voucher redeemable at an accredited post-secondary institution will follow in November. A list of approved post-secondary institutions and further information is available at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards. Or here http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/find_an_institution/welcome.htm

GUIDELINES & CATEGORY CRITERIA HELPFUL HINTS.

Dance, Drama, Creative Writing, Voluntary Community Service, Textiles, and Physical Athletics. Applicants, please note the additional conditions and guidelines outlined below.

Dance Performance: (10-minute performance)

Must include at least one piece of original choreography created solely by the applicant to satisfy project and adjudication criteria. Participants must perform in person before adjudicators either live in person or live online. You are responsible for ensuring good live video coverage of your performance.

Drama Performance: (20 minutes max.)

Students must declare in advance one area of adjudication and be specific about what their performance(s) will entail. The adjudication categories are: Directing, Scriptwriting or Acting. All scripts for all performances must be provided to adjudicators by March 31. Scriptwriters and Directors are expected to know how to format a script and provide director's stage and technical notes. Applicants are encouraged to reference scriptwriting and directing websites for further information. Scripts are to be submitted by March 31. A required tech. rehearsal will be scheduled prior to the performance date of April 19.

Creative Writing:

Creative writing submissions are to be limited to a maximum of 30 pages regardless of writing genre. Adjudicators will not read beyond 30 pages. Short stories and Novellas are encouraged within the guidelines. The District Committee reserves the right to limit and to screen the number of applicants. Writers are reminded that this is an original work with no more than 40% of school time invested in the project. A minimum of 60% (60 Hrs.) of this project must be personal time outside of scheduled class time related to this project category. Completed works must be submitted two weeks in advance of presentation dates. Works not submitted by will not be adjudicated.

Writing pieces (3 copies) are to be submitted to your scholarship counsellor by 12:00 pm March 3, 2026.

Voluntary Community Service (Voluntary Activity)

Voluntary Community Service projects will require a minimum of 100 service hours and a project presentation. 60 hrs. should be devoted to a designed service activity outlined in your project description. Additional service to school and community (up to 40 hrs.) may be used to meet the 100 Hour service requirement. Print or digital media may be used in project development and presentation. The presentation of your work to adjudicators is as important as the voluntary service itself. Voluntary service hours must be documented and verified by a reliable authority. Only 40% of the voluntary community service hours may be used when associated with **school courses like tutoring, mentoring, community service special needs program T.A.'s or mandatory service hour** projects initiated to meet Grad Program requirements. Adjudicators will be looking for unique, purposeful, intentionally designed voluntary service initiatives either created by or led by the district scholarship applicant. The need for voluntary service, the benefits to the community as a result, and the number of people benefiting should be communicated during the project presentation.

Textiles and Clothing Design

Participants in this area must have at least one senior level (Gr. 11/12) course in this subject/project area and be competent sewers. Senior level course experience as well as instruction by a qualified clothing/sewing specialist is a requirement.

Culinary

While not mandatory, it is recommended that participants in this category have some sr. course work in food preparation, the culinary arts or professional cooking training. Having Food Safe level 1 certification would also be a consideration. Committee Members reserve the right to screen out applicants who may have an interest in developing a project in this category but have little or no experience in planning a menu and a multicourse meal of scholarship quality. Past adjudicators have included at least one Red Seal Chef on the 3-member adjudication panel and standards are rigorous. Banquet presentation and adjudication must be completed by May 2, 2026.

Physical Athletics

THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. Be sure you choose the correct category. Speak with your counsellor if you are not sure.

Special category for elite athletes where students must "...demonstrate outstanding achievement...". At a minimum a static display with a highlight video or pictures. online or live. Your application must clearly define the sport to ensure proper adjudication assignment. A coach's reference and detailed logbook will be required to substantiate the award. **This category is reserved for athletes who move into Provincial level competition with possibility of post-secondary athletic admissions to university/college with a focus on professional competition.**

APPLICATION PROCESS:

This is an ONLINE Process which will be made available to you by your scholarship counsellor. Speak with them to receive the link.

When you have finished your online application, be sure to hit SUBMIT and receive a confirmation email that your application has been submitted.

ONLY THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONFIRMED THEIR APPLICATION SUBMISSION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Below is a listing of all the project categories available. If you have anything special beyond this list, please speak with your counsellor.

- 1.0 Indigenous Studies, Language and Culture
- 1.1 International Languages & Culture
- 2.0 Fine Arts: Painting and Drawing
- 2.1 Fine Arts: Photography
- 2.2 Fine Arts: 3D Model and Sculpture
- 2.3 Fine Arts: Textiles
- 2.4 Fine Arts: Performance-Dance, Theatre
- 2.5 Fine Arts: Performance Act/Play, Theatre
- 2.6 Fine Arts: Performance-Video Media: TV, Film shorts.
- 2.7 Fine Arts: Performance Music-Group/Band, Recording, Vocal
- 2.8 Fine Arts: Performance Solo Instrumental
- 2.9 Fine Arts: Creative Writing: (Specify Language)
- 2.10 Fine Arts: Creative Writing: Script Writing Non-Performance
- 2.11 Fine Arts: Creative Writing: Poetry
- 3.0 Applied Skills: Business, Technology, Home Economics
- 3.1 Applied Skills: Computer Digital Technology & Communication
- 3.2 Applied Skills: Computer Animation (requires original software/program/coding file details)
- 3.3 Applied Skills: Engineering, Design, Research, Architecture
- 4.0 Physical Activity Display or Presentation
- 4.1 Physical Athletics: Elite Athletics Specialized... see your counsellor for clarification.
- 5.0 Volunteer Community Service Presentation
- 5.1 Event Planning
- 6.0 Technical & Trades: Automotive, Mechanical & Welding
- 6.1 Technical & Trades: Aviation
- 6.2 Technical & Trades: Carpentry
- 6.3 Technical & Trades: Culinary
- 6.4 Technical & Trades: Electrical
- 6.5 Technical & Trades: Hair Beauty & Esthetics
- 6.6 Technical & Trades: HVAC and Plumbing
- 7.0 Other

A Sample Project Log Sheet has been attached to this document for your convenience. You may use this or one of your own designs as long as the information contained is accurate and has enough detail to substantiate your work performed.

Project Log Sheet Name: _____ School: _____

Project: _____

Complete the daily log each time you work on your project. Describe what you accomplished on each occasion. (Required for Adjudication)

Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Hours	Accumulated Total Hours
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Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Hours	Accumulated Total Hours
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Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Hours	Accumulated Total Hours
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Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Hours	Accumulated Total Hours
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