

MERIT AWARD BURSARY PROGRAM

EDUCATOR HANDBOOK
FOR 2024-2025



Bursaries | Networking | Volunteering

MERIT MATTERS



CONTENTS

●	President's Message	2
●	About Merit	3
●	Merit Impact	4
●	Bursary Amounts	5
●	Student Must Do's	6
●	Educator Must Do's	7
●	Key Dates	8
●	Thank you	9





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brilliance is evenly distributed, opportunity is not.

Educators know the significant obstacles to opportunity, particularly for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Merit helps create opportunity.

Merit is committed to increasing Supporting more students so that they can pursue apprenticeships, trade school programs, colleges and universities.

We want to help you, help students. Please encourage your students to apply. Your support is important.

Thank you,
Brian Smeenk





ABOUT MERIT

A Bold Vision

To be a leading contributor in recognition and financial awards to senior secondary students in high-needs schools in the GTA.

To provide incentives to youth of all abilities to pursue advancement through education and to contribute to their communities.

To establish an alumni program that provides mentoring and networking opportunities for all alumni.

Expand this powerful motivational tool for both students and educators.

**A solution
that rewards
more than just
marks.**

- ◆ engaged learners
- ◆ personal challenges
- ◆ resilience
- ◆ work ethic
- ◆ contribution to school, community and family





MERIT IMPACT

Over 28 years
of opening
doors.

11,469 applications
3,955 bursaries granted
\$3.1M awarded
3 school boards
96 high schools

A diverse pool of applicants
75% visible minorities

Low-income relief
66.4% of 2023 recipients with
household income of less than \$60,000

Graduation rates of 98%
Above the provincial average

Volunteerism amplified
Recipients play a major role on our
committees

Motivational inspiration
Recipient survey indicates positive
impact on pursuing post-secondary
education





BURSARY AMOUNTS

4 Levels of Bursaries



One Application





STUDENT INFORMATION

Who can apply

- Grade 11 and 12 students with a minimum of 16 credits
- returning to school full-time (secondary or post-secondary)
- attending a participating school from TDSB, TCDSB, PDSB (see meritaward.ca)

Steps:

- 1** Create an account on the [application website](#)
- 2** Complete the 3-part application
 1. Secure academic references by March 19, 2025.
 2. Secure extracurricular references
 3. Personal information
- 3** Submit the application with references no later than March 24, 2025



TEACHER / ADMIN STEPS

Teacher Review Consists of:

- Completing the recommendation form on the SM Apply portal
- Complete references by March 21, 2025

Admin Review Consists of:

- Uploading a credit counseling summary / student status sheet
- Providing a student rating - most deserving, very deserving, deserving, not nominated
- Comments (if any)
- Review submitted applications by March 28, 2025

You can contact the Merit Award team any time with questions at info@meritaward.ca





KEY DATES

● APPLICATION DATES

Sunday, December 1, 2024
Applications Open

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Student Deadline to Request References

Friday, March 21, 2025
Reference Submission Deadline by Referee

Monday, March 24, 2025
Student Application Submission Deadline

Friday, March 28, 2025
School Admin Review and Submission
Deadline

● AWARD DATES

June 2025
Award Notification

June 2025
Award Ceremony

Fall 2025
Bursary Funds Distributed
following proof of school
enrollment

● QUESTIONS?

Please email info@meritaward.ca



MERIT AWARD BURSARY PROGRAM



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



2024 Merit Recipients