# MERIT AWARD BURSARY PROGRAM

EDUCATOR HANDBOOK FOR 2024-2025





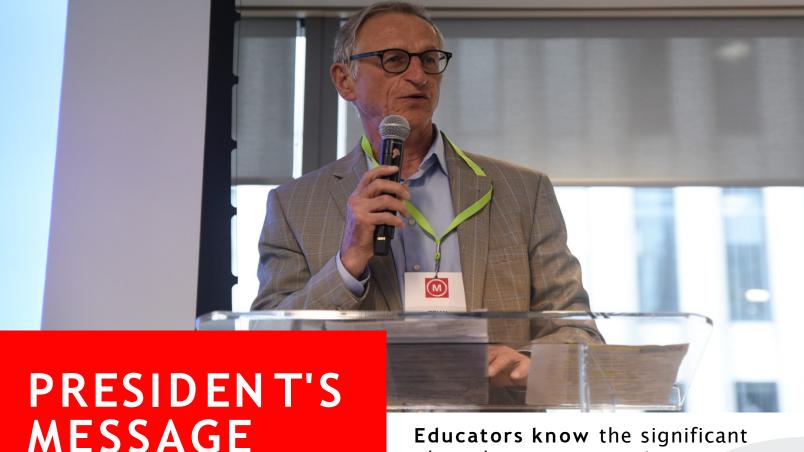
Bursaries | Networking | Volunteering

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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





# 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





## 4 Levels of Bursaries

\$5,000 Leaders of Tomorrow Grade 12 \$2,000 Very Deserving Grade 12 \$1,000 Deserving Grade 12 \$500 Deserving Grade 11

One Application





### 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:

- Create an account on the application website
- Complete the 3-part application
  1. Secure academic references by
  - March 19, 2025.

    2. Secure extracurricular references
  - 3. Personal information
- 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



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