



GARDEN VALLEY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2025 - 2026

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS & ADVISORS

A completed application provides the Garden Valley Teachers' Association (GVTA) with information about your future plans for entrance into a program of study to start you on a career as a teacher or clinician (school speech language pathologist, school social worker, school psychologist, or school occupational therapist).

Your application should demonstrate your suitability for the award by including examples of your educational achievements, school activities, and any additional contributions that you have made while enrolled in a Garden Valley School Division high school.

The GVTA Scholarship Selection Committee uses your submission to determine the best recipients for each of our \$1500 awards - One successful recipient is chosen from each high school.

The Committee accepts that you may ask an advisor to assist you in preparing, gathering, and verifying the contents and materials in your submission.

Your goal is to assemble the following items as a *Scholarship Application Package*:

- A **Detailed Essay**
- Two (2) **Letters of Reference**
- An **Official GVSD High School Transcript**
- A **phone number and an email address** where we can contact you

Submit your completed application to president@gvta.mbteach.org or to your school's Guidance Department who will forward your package to the GVTA Scholarship Selection Committee.

APPLICATION PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Submit a type-written **essay** outlining your suitability for the award - maximum 500 words - that addresses the following:
 - Your reason for going into Education or a Clinical field;
 - Your educational field(s) of interest (e.g., math, science, humanities, physical education, special education, vocational, social work, speech-language pathology, etc.) and why;
 - Your educational goals (What you hope to achieve in your career in education);
 - Why you think you would make a good teacher/clinician; and
 - Extra-curricular experiences (school and community) that have shaped you as an individual.
2. Include **two (2) reference letters** in support of your application.
 - One school reference – to vouch for your character and school contributions.
 - One community reference – non-relative – to vouch for your citizenship and civic qualities.
3. Include an **official high school transcript** - signed and stamped by a high school administrator.

**Deadline to submit Applications is 3:15pm on Friday, May 15, 2026.
Incomplete Application Packages may not be considered.**

PLEASE NOTE:

All materials submitted in the Application Package remain the property of GVTA. Original materials may be returned upon request – all copies remain the property of GVTA. To ensure document safety, be sure to make and keep backup copies of all items in your package.

GVTA SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

Step 1	All Application Packages are evaluated and ranked. <i>Candidates will be short-listed by the Scholarship Selection Committee by Wednesday, May 27.</i>
Step 2	Short-listed candidates are invited to attend an interview with the GVTA Scholarship Selection Committee. <i>Candidates will be notified whether or not they are successfully short-listed by Thursday, May 28.</i>
Step 3	<i>Interviews will be held on Monday, June 8. Short-listed candidates must be available that day for an interview. Candidates not available on June 8th will NOT be considered.</i> Scholarship awards are based on a combined Interview and Application Package evaluation.
Step 4	Recipients will be announced at their graduation ceremony.

AWARD REGULATIONS

1. Awards must be used to pursue full-time post-secondary studies towards becoming a teacher (including technical-vocational) or clinician (school psychologist, school speech-language pathologist, school social worker, or school occupational therapist) (**minimum enrollment of three courses per semester or the equivalent**).
2. Award funds may only be used by the Award Recipients and are not transferrable.
3. Applicants shall be graduating students of a Garden Valley School Division high school.
4. **Award Recipients may defer the award for one year upon high school graduation.** The award will be held in trust for one year only.
It is the responsibility of the Award Recipient to notify the GVTA, via email to president@gvta.mbteach.org of intentions to defer by September 30 of their high school graduation year.
5. In any given school year, the **\$1,500 GVTA Education Award** shall be disbursed as follows:
 - a) **\$750 upon proof of enrollment** in September/Fall Term I
Please submit: Tuition Payment Receipt, Official Term I Timetable via email to president@gvta.mbteach.org
 - b) **\$750 upon proof of successful completion** of Term I **and** enrollment in Term II
Please submit: Transcript of interim and/or final grades from Term I and an Official Term II Timetable via email to president@gvta.mbteach.org

Successful completion means attainment of passing grades in a minimum of the equivalent of three courses.
6. Award monies left unclaimed after May 31st of a recipient's enrollment year are forfeit and remain with the Garden Valley Teachers' Association.

7. The decision of the GVTA Scholarship Selection Committee is final and not open to appeal.
REFERENCE LETTER GUIDELINES – Please give to your Academic/School Reference

Applicants are required to submit two letters of reference - one academic and one personal or community.

Reference letters could discuss the following topics:

- How long, and under what circumstances, have you known the individual?
- Describe personal strengths that make you feel that this applicant could become a good teacher or clinician.
- Why would you want this individual to teach/provide clinical support to your own children or children you know?
- Based on your experiences with the applicant, discuss any challenges or concentrations that you perceive to be important for the applicant to consider and pursue for continued growth and advancement.
- Identify and include any other factors that would assist us in determining the suitability of this candidate as one of our award recipients.

Candidate suitability will be determined based on the following criteria:

Character

Character refers to qualities of the individual essential for being personally effective in a complex world including grit, tenacity, perseverance, resilience, reliability, and honesty.

Citizenship

Thinking like global citizens, considering global issues based on a deep understanding of diverse values with genuine interest in engaging with others to solve complex problems that impact human and environmental sustainability.

Collaboration

Collaboration refers to the capacity to work interdependently and synergistically in teams with strong interpersonal and team-related skills including effective management of team dynamics, making substantive decisions together, and learning from and contributing to the learning of others.

Communication

Communication entails mastery of three fluencies: digital, writing, and speaking, tailored for a range of audiences.

Creativity

Having an ‘entrepreneurial eye’ for economic and social opportunities, asking the right questions to generate novel ideas, and demonstrating leadership to pursue those ideas into practice.

Critical Thinking

Critically evaluating information and arguments, seeing patterns and connections, construction meaningful knowledge and applying it in the real world.

REFERENCE LETTER GUIDELINES – Please give to your Personal/Community Reference

Applicants are required to submit two letters of reference - one academic and one personal or community.

Reference letters could discuss the following topics:

- How long, and under what circumstances, have you known the individual?
- Describe personal strengths that make you feel that this applicant could become a good teacher or clinician.
- Why would you want this individual to teach/provide clinical support to your own children or children you know?
- Based on your experiences with the applicant, discuss any challenges or concentrations that you perceive to be important for the applicant to consider and pursue for continued growth and advancement.
- Identify and include any other factors that would assist us in determining the suitability of this candidate as one of our award recipients.

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