



**Great Valley School District
Education Foundation**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES



Scholarship Program Guidelines

A. Program Background/ Purpose

The mission of the Great Valley School District Education Foundation (Foundation) is to enrich the total student experience in the Great Valley School District, as a community partner, by funding special projects and programs.

The Goal of the program is to provide financial assistance to graduating Great Valley School District (GVSD) high school seniors and is available for all post-secondary programs (4-year college and university, community college, technical, trade, law enforcement and military career choices).

The Foundation and the school district will work collaboratively to select the student or students that exemplify the high standards of the Great Valley School District and surrounding community.

B. Scholarship Objective

As a community partner, the Foundation believes it is important to recognize and empower high school graduates who strive to continue their education. We aim to identify and honor graduates that have:

1. consistently met academic requirements of GVSD. Academic growth and progress are of particular interest.
2. exemplified good school citizenship.
3. had a significant role in providing financial or other support for their family.
4. volunteered or worked in community organizations that help others

C. Applying for a Foundation Scholarship

Interested students can obtain a scholarship application from the high school counseling office.

To apply for a GVSDEF scholarship, please submit the following to the high school counseling office:

1. A completed scholarship application. A sample is included as an addendum to this document.



2. Two short essays/personal statements approximately 150-250 words each
 - a. Essay 1 – Describe a personal challenge or adversity you have faced. What was its impact on you and how were you able to overcome it?
 - b. Essay 2 – Describe your future academic pursuit. Why have you chosen this field of study and what do you hope to accomplish?

3. Two letters of recommendation, one should be from a teacher and one from a non-teacher, who knows the student and can speak about their character exclusive of their school life. Examples could include a supervisor at a part-time job, clergyman, coach, neighbor, scout leader, etcetera.

All completed applications must be submitted to the high school counseling office by the deadline established by the counseling office.

D. Recipient Selection Process

1. The Foundation scholarship application will be included with Senior Scholarship packet distributed by the counseling office.
2. Students can obtain scholarship application from counselor's office or staff.
3. Students will return the completed application including the letters of recommendation to the counselor's office by the deadline determined by the counselors
4. The counselors will review and score the applications using the scholarship rubric. A sample of this can be found in the addendum of this document
5. In two weeks after the deadline, the counselors will provide the application, letters of recommendation, the two essays, and the rubric for each applicant to the Foundation scholarship committee. All identifying information on all documents will be replaced with non-descript identifiers known only to the school district.
6. Within two weeks after the receipt of the applications documents the Foundation scholarship committee will review the documents and decide which student(s) will receive the awards. The scholarship committee will present their findings including
7. A recommendation for approval to the Foundation board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.



8. Once approved the scholarship committee will notify counseling of the award decision and the student names will be revealed to the scholarship committee.

Original application documents will be retained by the Foundation for four years. Destroyed in the fifth year.

E. Scholarship Notification

The scholarship will be awarded at the at the annual Awards Assembly.

Scholarship winners that accept funding from GVSDEF agree to allow GVSDEF use their photo and allow GVSDEF to contact the recipient periodically to follow up on their educational and professional career.

F. Funding

The anticipated annual funding for this program will be \$3,000. The committee intends to award two \$1,500 scholarships annually.

The Scholarship Committee will present the recommended recipients at a regularly scheduled board meeting for the approval of the board before any public announcement of the recipients for any school year.

The committee requests that the initial scholarship year be funded from the general fund, however, the committee anticipates that subsequent annual awards will be funded by donation made specifically to the Scholarship Fund. At the request of the Scholarship committee and the discretion of the Foundation board, any funding shortfall may be funded from the general fund.

G. Program Success

The Scholarship Committee will track the progress of awardee through enrollment, completion of first year, and completion of course of study. The Scholarship Committee will meet with counseling at the beginning of the school year to review the program and the need to make any changes. Substantive changes to the program must be approved by the Foundation board before being implemented.

H. Calendar

Social media and newsletter posts should be scheduled at least two months before the scholarship packages are available from counseling. The Scholarship Committee will keep the Communications Committee updated on the specific dates.



GVSDEF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Year

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

1. Attending:

_____ Great Valley High School

_____ GVSD Student Attending the Technical College High School - Pickering Campus

2. List school and/or community activities/jobs or attach resume.

3. College, Trade School, or Post-Secondary Institution planning to attend.

4. Career Interest (if known):

5. Submit two essays (approx. 150 – 250 words each)

- a. Essay 1. Describe any personal challenges/adversity that make achieving your future goals more challenging. How were you able to overcome them and what was their impact upon you?
- b. Essay 2. Describe your future academic pursuit. Why have you chosen this field of study and what do you hope to achieve?

6. Letters of Recommendation

- a. Submit two letters of recommendation. One should be from a teacher and one from a non-teacher. The non-teacher letter should be from someone who knows you and can speak to your character exclusive of your school life. For example, a supervisor at a part-time job, clergyperson, coach, neighbor, scout leader, et cetera.
7. As a recipient of this scholarship, you grant GVSDEF permission to publish your photo and a short bio about you on our website, social media, and other promotional material. Please acknowledge by answering yes or no.

_____ Date _____
Applicant Signature



Appendix

Scholarship Application Evaluation Rubric

Student _____

School Year _____

	Score	4	3	2	1
Scholastic Achievement		GPA 3.5 or higher	GPA between 3.4 and 3.0	GPA between 2.9 and 2.5	GPA below 2.5
Work Ethic		Always displays a positive attitude, good character, and leadership	Usually displays a positive attitude, good character, and leadership	Sometime displays a positive attitude, good character, and leadership	Rarely displays a positive attitude, good character, and leadership
Kindness & Cooperation in School		Always reaches out to help others and consistently displays school spirit	Usually reaches out to help others and consistently displays school spirit	Sometimes reaches out to help others and usually displays school spirit	Rarely reaches out to help others and sometimes displays school spirit
Financial Need*		4	3	2	1
Total					

*Scale of 1-4 where 4 is the highest need