

Mensa Canada Distinguished Educator Award Policy

The Mensa Canada Distinguished Educator Award recognizes a teacher, professor, instructor, teaching assistant or other educator at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member. The educator can impact the Mensa member directly or as a result of their influence on the education of a dependent. The Mensa member may submit the nomination themselves or on behalf of a dependent. A joint submission by the Member and the dependant is encouraged if a dependent's educator is being recognized.

Nominations will be accepted only from members in good standing of Mensa Canada. Each nominated educator must agree in writing to the nomination. Complete entries include the nomination form, the signed educator agreement form and an essay of not more than 500 words written by the Mensa member [or jointly with their dependant] describing the impact that the educator had on his or her life.

Nominations must be submitted to Mensa Canada not later than April 1 unless the Mensa Canada Board of Directors specifically sets another date. . Essays will be judged by a committee of three to five Mensa members. Nominations received that do not conform to the rules of the competition will be rejected. The winning educator and their nominator are invited to the Mensa Canada President's brunch or other event at the Annual Gathering. If the educator does not attend, arrangements will be made to present the award at another time and place meaningful to them. Both the educator and the school or other educational institution receive a certificate in addition to the educator receiving the award.

Rules of the Competition

1. The educator may be retired but must be living as of the date that the nomination is submitted.
2. The student's experience with the educator must have been in a school, college, university, or other instructional institution, public, private, vocational or professional, military, etc.
3. A completed nomination form, a signed educator agreement form and an essay must all be submitted before the entry will be considered complete. Nominations which are incomplete or which do not conform to the requirements of the competition will not be considered.
4. The essay must be typed, no longer than 500 words. The essay should ideally describe:
 - a. the educator's instructional and/or motivational techniques, behaviour, manner, remarks, etc., with sufficient clarity and objectivity that they might inspire and be emulated by other educators, and
 - b. specifically how the student's educational experience or life was affected profoundly, significantly, and/or lastingly.
5. A Mensa Canada member in good standing at the time of the deadline must submit the nomination. The nomination may be submitted by a member on behalf of a dependent who is not a Mensa member or by a young Mensan. A joint submission by the Member and the dependant is preferred if a dependant's educator is being nominated.

6. A Nomination Form will include:
 - a. Name of the nominator with their Mensa Canada Membership number, full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address;
 - b. Name of the educator nominated, their full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address;
 - c. Name of the School/Educational Institution, its full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address, Principal's (or other title) name, and what type of School/Educational Institution it is;
 - d. A statement that the educator agrees to being considered for the award and the requirement that a signed statement of agreement from the educator must be submitted;
 - e. A statement that submitting the nomination form means that they agree all publication rights to their essay, whether or not it wins, are the property of Mensa Canada;
 - f. The title of the essay;
 - g. Signature of the nominator and the date.
7. The educator must agree to being considered for the award. A signed statement of agreement from the educator must be submitted. The educator agreement statement must include:
 - a. Stated agreement to have their name entered into the competition for the Mensa Canada Distinguished Educator Award;
 - b. Stated understanding that selected essays, winners or not, may be published by Mensa;
 - c. Stated understanding that their real name may be mentioned in a published essay;
 - d. Name of the educator nominated, their full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address;
 - e. Signature of the educator.
8. All nominators, their dependents and educators must agree that all publication rights to the essay, whether or not it wins, are the property of Mensa Canada. They must also agree that ownership and use of all photos taken by or for Mensa or its representatives at the award presentation, or otherwise in connection with the award, are that of Mensa Canada. Submitting a nomination or agreement to accept a nomination will constitute agreement to this.
9. Normally the deadline for nominations will be April 1 unless the Board of Directors of Mensa Canada sets a different specific date.
10. The selection committee for the award will normally consist of three to five Mensa Canada members appointed by the Board of Directors.
11. The Board or selection committee may approve forms for the Nomination and Educator Agreement but any document received with all required information and signatures will be considered valid.

The Award

1. The educator cited in the winning essay will receive a plaque or trophy and a certificate.
2. The educator's school or other educational institution will receive a duplicate certificate.

3. Both the educator and their nominator will be invited to the Mensa Canada President's Brunch or other event at the Annual Gathering. Either/both will receive complimentary entry to the event, but not expenses to attend the event. Attendance is not required. If the educator does not attend, arrangements will be made to present the award at another time and place meaningful to them.

Essay Guidelines

1. Essays should be typed and preferably submitted electronically.
2. Spelling, grammar, style of writing and lay out will be considered.
3. Essays longer than 500 words will not be considered. There is no minimum length, but the requirements of the competition must be met.
4. Essays may be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to the destination specified by Mensa Canada.
5. Specifics are encouraged as generalizations will not normally be considered to prove the merits of the nominee.
6. Only the title of the essay should appear in that document as an identifier, not the nominator's or dependent's name(s) or any other identification of who submitted it.

- Adopted by the Board March 28, 2021