



KINOOMAAGEWIN POLICY

Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) Education Policy

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A PURPOSE

- 0.1 The K-12 Policy encourages academic achievement and consistent attendance, starting at the elementary and continuing at the secondary panels. It is the foundation of all social systems that education be prioritized to ensure the long-term success of its citizens. This policy is designed to help bridge the gaps between access to education, create a foundation for communication, and allow the Department to advocate for Families and Community with the provincial systems parents access to educate their children.

B PURCHASED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

1 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR PROVINCIAL TUITION PAYMENT

- 1.1 To be eligible for elementary or secondary school educational services (tuition) paid by N.F.N., the student must meet the following criteria:
 - a) The student must be between the ages of 4 and 21 years AND;
 - b) Debendaagziwaad of Nipissing First Nation and living on Nipissing First Nation Land as defined by the Gichi-Naaknigewin, OR;
 - c) is a member of another First Nation and resides with a Debendaagziwaad of Nipissing on Nipissing First Nation Land, where the student is not entitled to educational services from the provincial tax levy.

2 STUDENT INFORMATION

- 2.1 Parents/Guardians or students 18 years or older must fill out the Student Information Sheet (Appendix A) and Release of Information (Appendix B) form by September 30th for nominal roll tracking, invoicing purposes, and insurance with provincial school boards.
- 2.2 The form is distributed yearly to the Education Department and is available at the Nipissing First Nation Education Office and on the nfn.ca website.
- 2.3 This form is required to assist the Education Department and the School Boards in collaborating when necessary for education program planning and reporting purposes.
- 2.4 Parents/Guardians or Students 18 years or older will be notified by the Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinator or School Board and invited to participate when meetings occur for academic purposes.
- 2.5 Parents/Guardians or Students 18 years or older must notify the Education Department of any student contact information changes throughout the school year. N.F.N. Education is not liable or responsible for communication errors and service delays resulting from outdated information on file.
- 2.6 Student Data and Information is confidential and will not be released by the Education Department unless the Parent/Guardian/Student over 18 provides informed consent.

3 SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND TUITION DETERMINATION

3.1

- 3.2 Tuition prices for Eligible students wishing to attend provincially recognized schools listed in section 3.3 are set yearly by the Ministry of Education called the "Calculations of Fees for Pupils."
- 3.3 Nipissing First Nation will only purchase educational services from approved institutions for students who meet the eligibility criteria in section 1.1:
- 3.4 Nipissing First Nation approves the following institutions for tuition payment.
 - a) The Near North District School Board,
 - b) Le Conseil Scolaire public du Nord-Est de L'Ontario,
 - c) The Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board,
 - d) Le Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord School Board
 - e) Nbisiiing Education Centre,
 - f) Provincial or Demonstration Schools where the conditions are met for enrollment under the Standards for School Boards Special Education Plan in the Education Act of Ontario.
 - g) Private or Independent schools that are recognized by the province and listed on the Ministry of Education's Website.
- 3.5 Families who enroll their child or Students attending a private or independent school by choice are not entitled to accommodation, cost-of-living allowance, or transportation services through Nipissing First Nation.
- 3.6 Tuition fees to attend a private or independent school will be at the rate of the nearest Provincial School Board to Nipissing First Nation.
- 3.7 In Respect to Provincial and Demonstration schools as defined by the Education Act of Ontario, the Education Department reserves the right to pay additional fees to the province for enrollment, provided the student:
 - a) Must meet Eligibility Requirements of Tuition Payments and enrolment to such schools. AND;
 - b) It is financially available.

4 TRANSPORTATION

- 4.1 Transportation is being provided to many elementary and secondary schools Nipissing First Nation eligible students attend within the four local school boards and Nbisiiing Education Centre.
- 4.2 For full details on student transportation regarding schools and services provided, refer to Nbisiiing Bus Lines Policy.
- 4.3 For current information on bus routes, contact the Education Department.

5 SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FUND

- 5.1 The fund is established to cover additional registration costs and special enrollment fees for specific academic programming, which purpose is credit accumulation for Eligible students within these programs.
- 5.2 Programs and students must meet sections 1, 2, and 3 of this policy to be eligible for application.

- 5.3 Parents/Guardians/Students over 18 are to make special applications to access this fund for costs associated with programming or courses not covered by regular tuition payments. See Appendix C for the application and required documentation.
- 5.4 Access to this fund is limited, and evidence is required to ensure that the applicant or the family must exhaust all alternative funding before an application is submitted. Access to funds must demonstrate that the cost would be outside the average expectation of any provincial student.
- 5.5 Due to the limited nature of the fund, once approved, reimbursement to families will occur after official receipts are submitted.
- 5.6 Nipissing First Nation is not responsible or liable for any consequences resulting in delays or denials to access the funds. The Education Department maintains the right to manage access and the assistance provided by the fund based on financial availability and criteria set by this policy.
- 5.7 The fund can only be used for Registration Fees. No Equipment will be supplied under this fund.
- 5.8 It is at the discretion of the Education Department to manage this fund to accept or reject applications based on financial availability and determination of need.

C STUDENT ALLOWANCES/INCENTIVES/AWARDS

6 DEFINITIONS

"On-Reserve" is defined as:

- a) Families/Students that have their permanent address as being on Nipissing First Nation Reserve Lands, OR;
- b) Family/Students that have transitioned on or off the reserve where the family/student has resided on Nipissing First Nation Reserve Land for a minimum of 70% of the school year (September to June). The Department may request additional documentation to confirm the dates.

7 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1 The student must be a Debendaagziwaad of Nipissing First Nation
- 7.2 Parents/Guardians/Students over 18 must have registered with and allow for the release of information to the N.F.N. Department of Education and meet specific eligibility criteria for any Allowances, Incentives or Awards as outlined in this policy.
- 7.3 The student must be enrolled in an approved school defined by section 3.2.

8 START-UP UP ALLOWANCES

- 8.1 It shall be a maximum of \$50.00 per year for all eligible students registered for the first day of school who have completed their registration package with N.F.N. Education and Nipissing Bus lines.
- 8.2 The Department will distribute the allowance in August before each school year.
- 8.3 The Department will notify the community no later than July 31st for distribution times and locations.

9 ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

- 9.1 In addition to Section 6, the student must be a Nipissing First Nation student living on reserve for the distribution timeframe.
- 9.2 Students must provide report cards or a letter on the official school letterhead (sample wording in Appendix D) indicating the total number of absences and how many are excused.
- 9.3 When calculating attendance incentives for all students, Excused absences approved by the school, inclement weather, school closures, and cultural days with prior approval from the Education Department are not counted as absent. (A sample is provided in Appendix E)
- 9.4 Student allowance incentives are distributed by February for semester/term 1 (September to January) and by August for semester/Term 2 (February to June). The Department will notify the community via social media and a letter of specific dates regarding when distributions will occur.
- 9.5 Attendance Incentives are divided into two panels calculated as follows per term
- a) Grades 1-8 are calculated as follows:
- 0-2 days absent = \$50
 - 3-6 days = \$35
 - 7-10 days = \$25
- b) Grades 9-12 are calculated as follows:
- Students are entitled to \$25 for each full credit course passed (1.0) to a maximum of 4 courses. (4 courses = \$100, 3 courses = \$75, 2 courses = \$50, 1 course = \$25);
 - For half-credit courses, the entitlement is \$12.5.
 - Absences will be deducted from the overall total at \$2.50 per course.
 - Summer School Courses will only be considered for Attendance Incentives if the course is not part of a credit recovery plan or due to a failure within the Fall and Winter Semesters.

10 STUDENT AWARDS

- 10.1 In addition to Section 7, to be eligible for all Student Awards or Graduation Awards, the student must submit the following to the Education Department by July 15th:
- **Please note: Students do not need to reside on reserve for any student awards.**
- b) A final year-end report card (grade 1 to 11) or
- c) an official transcript, report card and copy of the OSSD or OSSC for Grade 12 graduating students.
- The Education Department staff will make copies in the office and return originals.
- 10.2 Academic Financial Awards are granted to Grade 9 to 12 students only.
- a) The total average of marks received for each semester was:
- 80% -100% = \$100
 - 70% - 79% = \$75
 - Add other levels

- b) Summer Courses will only qualify for Financial Awards if the student takes courses where the courses are not part of a credit recovery plan or due to a failure that occurred during the Fall and Winter Semesters
- c) A maximum of 4 credits will be calculated per semester for the average and awarded on that basis in the situation that a student has been granted more than 4 credits due to cooperative education or due to enrollment into a condensed Dual Credit course, the top 4 credits will be used for the average.

10.3 Graduation Financial Awards:

- a) Eligible students who graduate from Grade 8th will receive a \$50.00 award.
- b) Eligible students who graduate from secondary school with an OSSC or OSSD will receive a \$150.00 award.
- c) Students graduating from a modified life skills program with a school certificate at 21 yrs of age are also eligible to receive 150.00 upon submission of a graduation letter from their school.
- d) Due to time constraints regarding commencement ceremonies, the Department will grant the awards to graduating students before submitting an official transcript or year-end report card, provided the attending school attests that the student has fulfilled graduation requirements.
- e) The student or parents/guardians must follow all submission deadlines.

10.4 Grade 12 Graduation Gift:

- a) When funding is available, the Department will purchase a gift for students upon their grade 12 graduation.
- b) The nature of the gift must be academic and is at the discretion of the Director of Education and financial availability.

APPENDIX A: STUDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To be completed **every school year** by all students accessing any Services provided by the Education Department

This form is not related to the Bussing Registration Form.

A. STUDENT'S INFORMATION:			
First Name:		Middle Name:	Last Name:
Gender Identification: (optional)	Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)	Band Registry No. (10 Digit)	Band Name:
Home Address:			
City:		Prov:	Postal Code:
			Home Phone:
Mother/Guardian's Name:	Cell or Work#	Email address:	
Father/Guardian's Name:	Cell or Work#	Email address:	
B. ENROLLED SCHOOL:			
Sturgeon Falls area:	Our Lady of Sorrows St. Joseph Resurrection Jeunesse Active Whitewoods	Northern SS/Esp Nipissing Ouest Franco Cite	OTHER*:
North Bay area:	Alliance Woodlands St. Alexander Mother St. Bride St. Hubert	St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Nbisiing Chippewa Algonquin	OTHER*:
Grade as of Sept:	OEN/NISO:	The student has an I.E.P.: Yes No	
Student requires transportation:	YES (If yes, please fill sections D to F)	NO (Proceed to INFORMED CONSENT AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION)	
<p>*If a student is registered under OTHER, Nbisiing Bus Line is not responsible for providing student school transportation.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Student Transportation is only provided for students living on reserve and attending the schools listed above.</p>			
C. ACCESS ALERT			
If access restrictions are in effect, please specify details (Name, relation to child and reason):			
Please get in touch with our office if your information changes throughout the school year.			

APPENDIX B - INFORMED CONSENT AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Please read carefully and sign in the appropriate areas as indicated

Identification of Students for Education Activities

I consent, without restrictions, for the Name and/or photograph, and details of my child's achievement to be displayed and/or for recognition and affirmation purposes.

Or

I consent, without restrictions, for the Name and/or photograph and details of my achievement to be displayed and/or for recognition and affirmation purposes.

PLEASE NOTE: This may include the Nipissing First Nation Education website/newsletter or local newspaper.

Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student (if 16 years or older):

Date:

Authorization for Release and Exchange of Information: Anishinabek Education System Consent

1. Collection, Use, and Disclosure of Personal Information

I hereby provide consent to the Ontario Ministry of Education to disclose to the Kinooamaadziwin Education Body (K.E.B.) and to the First Nation, of which my child or I am a member, my or my child's personal information, including school records which are in the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). I also consent to the First Nation to disclose my or my child's information to the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Information shared between the Ontario Ministry of Education, the K.E.B., and N.F.N. may include Name; age; date of birth; gender; attendance; report card and course marks; achievements such as EQAO assessment results; credit accumulation and diploma; programs/services provided such as special education, including exceptionalities and placement information; and if required, access to my child's Ministry of Education dataset.

2. Collection, Use, and Disclosure of Personal Information to the Ministry of Education

I consent the First Nation to disclose the following information to the Ontario Ministry of Education: my Name, date of birth, gender, and Ontario Education Number.

or

I consent the First Nation to disclose the following information to the Ontario Ministry of Education: my child's Name, date of birth, gender, and Ontario Education Number.

I understand that this is required to allow information sharing between the Anishinabek Education System and the Ministry of Education and that this information sharing supports:

- I. planning or delivering education programs and services;
- II. activities to improve or maintain the quality of education programs or services; and
- III. education research and statistical activities that will support student success and well-being.

I understand that N.F.N., the K.E.B., and the Ontario Ministry of Education will maintain and protect the confidentiality of this personal information.

Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student (if 16 years or older):

Date:

Authorization for Release and Exchange of Information: N.F.N. Education Department Report Cards / Special Education

A release of information form must be signed by the parent /guardian for the education department to access information on your child from the four local school Boards we have service agreements with.

The information received will support the N.F.N. Education Department Administrative responsibilities to determine student eligibility for financial support, incentives, special services and information for reports. The parent/guardian must check the boxes and sign the authorization to release information.

Authorizations are available through the Elementary/Secondary Support Worker in the N.F.N. Education Department or NFN.ca/education/students/elementary-secondary.

The parent/guardian may cancel or change the authorization(s) in writing before the expiry date unless action has already been taken based on the authorization(s). This authorization remains in effect for the duration the student is enrolled with the same school board or until it is revoked in writing.

This information, held in confidence, is collected in accordance with the Tuition Agreement between Nipissing First Nation and your child's school board in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN

Nipissing First Nation & _____ School Board I,, the parent/guardian of _____ student's Name and D.O.B.) (hereinafter referred to as "the student") hereby authorize the release by the _____ Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") to Nipissing First Nation Education Department (hereinafter referred to as "the Department") of the following information, and to the participation by the Department in the following educational support services:

OR

I _____ (hereinafter referred to as "the student"), having attained the age of 18, hereby authorize the release by the Board to the Department of the following information and to the participation by the Department in the following educational support services:

"Information" shall be understood to include all relevant documentation and other information in the O.S.R. (Ontario Student Record) and otherwise in the possession or under the control of the School Board:

Please ✓ all that apply:

- The Department may receive information pertaining to the student's achievement.
- The Department may receive information pertaining to the student's attendance.
- The Department may receive information pertaining to any suspensions or expulsions involving the student.
- The Department may receive information pertaining to special services considered for or provided to the student – including Special Education Identification, Placement & Review ("IPRC") report, IPRC summary, and the Individual Education Plan.
- The Department may be advised of and may participate in in-school conferences pertaining to the student.
- The Department may be advised of and may participate in meetings convened in the IPRC process concerning the student.
- The Department may have access to the student while at school.
- The Department may provide counselling to the student in school.
- The Department may participate in any assessment or re-assessment of the student's need for an Educational Assistant.
- The Department may consider the student a candidate for any awards presented as annual Nipissing First Nation Student Incentives and Awards. (Access to achievement and attendance records necessary.)
- All other information pertaining to the needs of the student.
- The Board may advise the transportation provider of any suspension or expulsion of the student.
- This authorization remains in effect:

As long as the student is enrolled with the _____ School Board or until it is revoked in writing.

Parent/Guardian/Student's Signature (having attained Age 18)

Date

Print name

REGISTERED SCHOOL: _____

(This information, held in confidence, is collected in accordance with the Education Services Agreement between Nipissing First Nation and the School Board in compliance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*)