

# How to participate in the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Information For Parents, Guardians and Students

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To support First Nation students in reaching their education goals, Ontario is introducing the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA). The REA is designed to prioritize student needs by allowing First Nation students to choose the school that best suits their learning needs.

REA will help change the educational landscape for First Nation students and families by improving access, removing barriers and strengthening parent choice for First Nation students transitioning between school systems in Ontario. This approach was developed in partnership with First Nations and school boards, and comes into effect on **September 1, 2019**.

Through the REA, when requirements are met, students have more options for their education:

- First Nation students who live on-reserve may attend a school of a school board.
- Students who would normally be eligible to attend a school of a school board may attend a First Nation-operated or federally-operated school (“First Nation school”), subject to that school’s admission policies.

## Important information needed to participate in the REA

Whether a student wishes to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board, the following steps must be taken:

1. A written notice form must be completed.
  - Please work with your Band, Tribal Council, Education Authority, or the federal government as they will need to complete some sections of the form.
  - Submit the form to the office of the local school of the school board.
  - The forms are available at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/Indigenous/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/Indigenous/)
2. Students must register at the school of a school board, even if they plan to attend a First Nation school.
  - Students may be eligible to register at their local school of a school board even if they had not been eligible for registration in the past. Please let the school administrators know that the student is registering with the intent to participate under REA.
  - Contact your First Nation school of choice to confirm admission processes and requirements. First Nation schools determine their own admission policies.

The written notice form must be completed by:

- Parent/Guardian
- Or Student (age 18 and over, or age 16 or 17 who has withdrawn from parental control)

**and**

- The Band Council, Tribal Council, Education Authority, or the federal government.

# Step by Step Guide to the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)

## First Nation student living on-reserve wishing to attend a school of a school board

**Step 1:** Connect with your Band Council, Tribal Council or Education Authority.

- ✓ Make sure the written notice is completed. The parent/guardian or the student **and** their Band, Tribal Council, Education Authority or the federal government must also complete the form.
- ✓ Deliver the completed written notice to the school of a school board that the student wishes to attend and obtain confirmation of receipt.

**Step 2:** Register at the school of the school board.

- ✓ Please contact the school of the school board that the student wishes to attend to confirm registration requirements.
- ✓ Let school administrators know that the student is registering with the intent to participate under the REA.
- ✓ Bring a copy of the completed [written notice](#).

**The student is now eligible to attend the school.**

## Student wishing to attend a First Nation-operated school

**Step 1:** Connect with the organization that operates the First Nation school the student wishes to attend.

- ✓ Contact the First Nation school to confirm their admission policies.
- ✓ Make sure the written notice is completed. The parent/guardian or the student **and** their Band Council, Tribal Council, Education Authority, or the federal government (i.e., the organization that is operating the school) must also complete in the form.
- ✓ Deliver the written notice to the school of the school board that the student currently attends. If the student is not currently registered, deliver the written notice to a school of a school board within the student's catchment area. Obtain confirmation of receipt.
- ✓ If the student is not currently attending a school of the school board, please proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2:** Register with a local board school.

- ✓ If the student is not registered at the school of a school board where the written notice was delivered, please contact the school to confirm registration requirements and the documents needed, (e.g., proof of age, address, citizenship/residency status).
- ✓ Let school administrators know that the student is registering with the intent to participate under the REA.
- ✓ Bring a copy of the completed [written notice](#).

**The student is now eligible to attend the school.**

### Helpful Information:

- If additional services are needed, an agreement may be negotiated between the school board and the First Nation school/band/council.
- If you are unable to use the links to access the written notice, please contact your local school board or the Ministry of Education, Indigenous Education Office at (416)-305-6986.
- Find more information about the Reciprocal Education Approach go to [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/Indigenous/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/Indigenous/)