

Ministry of Education

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Ministère de l'Éducation

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2020: SB13

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Andrew Davis
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DATE: September 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Updates to: *Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)*
Instructions for First Nations and School Boards &
Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guideline, 2000 (Revised
2020)

Thank you for your ongoing work to ensure the successful implementation of the Reciprocal Education Approach, and to support First Nation students' access to education.

The REA Instructions was developed in 2019 to provide key information on school eligibility, student eligibility, the base fee, admission and enrolment policies, and a process for payments, amongst other important processes. We are writing today to share updates to the REA Instructions for 2020-2021 and related updates to the OSR Guideline, 2000 (Updated 2020). While we have attached the updated versions of these documents for your ease of reference, we have also highlighted the most significant changes to the REA Instructions, and the changes to the OSR Guideline, below.

Significant Changes to REA Instructions for 2020-2021

School Eligibility changes:

O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) under the *Education Act* was amended in May 2020 to address three elements of school eligibility under the Reciprocal Education Approach as follows:

1. **Waive the 2019-2020 school eligibility supporting documentation deadline of March 30, 2020**, for schools in Table 2 of the regulation. This will allow all schools listed in Table 2 to remain eligible for the 2019-2020 school year without submitting their eligibility documentation to the ministry by the previous deadline of March 30th. Schools on Table 2 are still required to provide supporting documentation by October 30, 2020 to be eligible for the 2020-2021 school year and subsequent years.
2. **Provide that First Nation schools operated by Anishinabek Education System (AES)**-participating First Nations are not required to provide supporting documentation demonstrating they are operated by a First Nation entity.
3. **Update the list of schools** in Tables 1 and 2 of the regulation.

Written Notice changes:

In 2020, statutory and regulatory changes were made to the written notice requirements to expand the list of eligible adults authorized to provide the written notice form for a student. Written notice must still be provided by the First Nation entity. The part of the notice that previously had to be signed by a parent, guardian or pupil may now be signed by another authorized person, as follows:

- i. a person who is authorized in writing by the parent, guardian or student to provide the notice¹; or
- ii. a person who facilitates the student's access to education; or
- iii. a person from the student's extended family, as defined in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*:

¹ Guardian, in this context, means a person defined in section 18 of the *Education Act*. This is either a legal guardian (other than a parent) or anyone who has received into their care or residence, a person of compulsory school age (aged 6 to 18). The student may provide written notice if they are 16 or 17 and have withdrawn from parental control or 18 years of age or older.

“extended family” means persons to whom a child is related, including through a spousal relationship or adoption and, in the case of a First Nations, Inuk or Métis child, includes any member of,

a band of which the child is a member,

a band with which the child identifies,

a First Nations, Inuit or Métis community of which the child is a member, and

a First Nations, Inuit or Métis community with which the child identifies.

Base Fee changes:

Key updates to allocations within the REA base fee for 2020-21 include:

- the new Supports for Students Fund (SSF) which support students’ unique learning needs. The SSF replaces the prior Local Priorities Fund which was established in 2017-2018 to address a range of local priorities and needs
- a technical adjustment to reorganize program leadership funding – the Program Leadership Allocation has been moved out of the School Board Administration and Governance Grant and is now a separate grant. The funding generated through the new Program Leadership Grant supports program leadership for program development and delivery
- the transfer of some program allocations into the base fee structure to mirror similar updates to the GSN. This update helps streamline the ministry’s transfer payment footprint while offering recipients greater funding predictability and reducing their administrative burden
- name changes to certain GSN allocations that are based on stakeholder feedback to better reflect their current purpose, i.e.:
 - The Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) Amount Allocation is now the **Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) Allocation**
 - The Safe and Accepting Schools Supplement is now the **Mental Health and Well-Being Grant**
 - The Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP) Tutoring Allocation is now the **Tutoring Allocation**

As in 2019-20, a list of each school board’s base fee, based on their estimates, will be listed on the ministry’s website.

The gender column for Student Information Report and Student Enrolment List has been removed to align with the Ontario Education Number (OEN) application.

Additional details have been added to support school boards with late requests for funding for 2019-20 school year due to COVID-19 circumstances.

Changes to OSR Guideline for 2020-2021:

The ministry has updated sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the OSR Guideline and Appendix H and I of the Guideline.

Section 6.1 - removes the requirement for a parent/guardian or adult student to sign the transfer form for schools that are specified.

Section 6.2 - clarifies that section 6.2 now applies only to First Nation schools not specified in section 6.1.

The two appendices have been updated to reflect changes to section 6.1 and 6.2. In addition, in Appendix I the wording Native Education Authority has been replaced with First Nation Education Authority.

Updating the OSR Guideline ensures that consent requirements for the transfer of student OSRs between specified First Nation-operated or federally-operated schools and provincially-funded schools:

- streamlines process for specified schools by recognizing the eligibility of First Nation-operated or federally-operated schools under the REA;
- ensures alignment between ministry legislation, regulation and policies;
- supports equity by establishing same processes for school boards to support First Nation and non-First Nation students; and, increases student record continuity and application.

We encourage all staff responsible for enrolment, particularly school principals and administrators, to review these documents.

If you require further information about the REA, please contact:

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Attachments:

- 2020-21 REA Instructions for First Nations and School Boards
- 2020-21 Student Information Report (SIR)