

Ministry of Education

Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation

Division de l'éducation autochtone et du bien-être

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2021:SB20

Date: September 23, 2021

Memorandum To: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Denise Dwyer
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Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

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Subject: Updates to: *Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Instructions for First Nations and School Boards* and Supporting Documents

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.

We are writing today to share updates to the REA Instructions for 2021-22. The REA Instructions were developed in 2019 to provide key information on school eligibility, student eligibility, the base fee, student admission and enrolment policies, payment schedules, amongst other important processes.

We have attached the updated version of the document for your ease of reference and we have highlighted the most significant changes to the REA Instructions below. Also attached are a list of frequently asked questions.

Changes to REA Instructions for 2021-22

School Eligibility:

O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) under the *Education Act* was amended in June 2021 to waive the school eligibility supporting documentation requirement for First Nation schools formerly listed in Table 2 of section 3 of the regulation. Eligible schools are now listed in Table 1 of section 3 of the regulation. The list of eligible schools is also on the ministry [website](#). Schools not listed in Table 1 of the regulation are still required to submit their school eligibility documentation by October 30 of a given school year in order to be eligible for that school year and subsequent school years.

Base Fee

Key updates to allocations within the REA base fee for 2021-22 include:

- New investments in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) to support the continuing need for funding for technology resources and mental health supports arising due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as mitigation funding to help school boards continue to offer support to students requiring English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) and the Programme d'appui aux nouveaux arrivants (PANA) programs, despite declining recent immigrant enrolment.
- The transfer of some program allocations, previously provided through Priorities and Partnerships Funding into the base fee structure to mirror updates approved as part of the 2021-22 Grants for Student Needs (GSN). This includes the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, the After-School Skills Development Programs and others. This update helps streamline the funding while also reducing administrative burden for school boards.

Refer to Appendix A of the 2021-22 *REA Instructions for First Nations and School Boards* for details on the allocations that are included, partially included or excluded from the REA base fee calculation.

As in 2020-21, the base fee for each school board, based on school boards' estimates submissions, will be posted on the ministry's website.

Student Information Report and Student Enrolment List:

- A new Student Information Report template is being provided for the 2021-22 school year which includes the following updates:
 - “School Semester Type” field is added to the Student Information Report and Student Enrolment List to capture the semester model that is used by each First Nation School during the 2021-22 school year.
 - “Submission Period Type” field is added to the Student Information Report.
 - Instructions to complete the Student Information Report are moved to a separate worksheet.
- Boards are required to upload the new Student Information Report through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS).
- Boards are required to report the complete student listing for both October and March count dates in the final reporting.

Payment Schedule

- An updated payment schedule and description has been included to accommodate schools that have adopted the quadmester or octomester model.

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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Sincerely,

Original signed by

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Attachments:

- 2021-22 REA Instructions for First Nations and School Boards
- 2021-22 Student Information Report (SIR)
- 2021-22 Student Enrolment List (SEL)

c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
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