

# The Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Instructions for First Nations and School Boards

2025-2026

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide information and guidelines about the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) to ensure smooth and consistent implementation throughout the province. The REA is helping to change the educational landscape for First Nation students and families by improving access, removing barriers and strengthening parent and guardian choice for First Nation students attending schools of school boards and First Nation-operated or federally-operated schools (First Nation schools) in Ontario.

This guide is intended for use by First Nations, school board officials and school administrators.

A fact sheet for parents, guardians, families and students is available.

### Overview

The REA was designed to improve access to education for First Nation students by eliminating the need for First Nations and school boards to negotiate and enter into an agreement for the base tuition fee.

When requirements and eligibility criteria are met, the REA requires that school boards:

- a) Admit First Nation students, who ordinarily reside on-reserve, to a school of the school board; and
- b) Provide funding support for students who would ordinarily be eligible to be pupils of the board to attend a First Nation school.

For school board obligations to be initiated, First Nations and students must:

- a) Meet certain eligibility criteria; and
- b) Submit written notice for each student to the school of the school board at which the student intends to register or is currently registered<sup>1</sup>.

The REA sets out reciprocal base fees for elementary and secondary students during the regular school day which school boards will be required to pay or charge First Nation Entities, which is dependent upon where the student attends school.

School boards and First Nation Entities may enter into agreements for additional services and supports in addition to the base fee. Policies and processes, including standardized payment and reporting processes, have been established to support a consistent implementation of the REA.

First Nations and school boards may also continue to enter into agreements regarding other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The *Education Act* provides that a school board must receive **written notice** from one of the Entities noted in <u>Table 1.1</u>: <u>Summary of Eligibility</u> **and** the student's parent/guardian, the student, or Another Authorized Person where the student is 16 or 17 and withdrawn from parental control or is 18 years of age or older.

supports and services which do not require the payment of a fee (e.g. provisions regarding cooperation between the school board and the First Nation, sharing of resources and information, etc.).

### How the REA was Developed

In the Fall of 2017, in response to concerns from First Nations and school boards on the provisions in the *Education Act* regarding Education Services Agreements (ESAs) and Reverse Education Services Agreements (RESAs), the Ministry of Education (ministry) invited First Nation Political Territorial Organizations, Independent First Nations, the Chiefs of Ontario, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Board and school board associations to participate in a working group.

In May 2018, amendments to the <u>Education Act</u> received Royal Assent. These amendments set out the legislative framework for the REA. In February 2019, the working group was reconvened to work on the REA's implementation considerations. Regulations setting out implementation details were developed based on the working group's input. The REA is supported by sections <u>185</u> and <u>188</u> of the <u>Education Act</u> and <u>O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach)</u>, which came into force on September 1, 2019.

### How to Use This Guide

This guide is organized into three main sections:

**Section 1: Information for First Nations.** This section provides detailed instructions to support First Nation organizations, communities and schools. It summarizes the steps that First Nations would take to support students' admissions, to ensure eligibility of their schools and initiate payment processes.

<u>Section 2: Information for School Boards.</u> This section provides detailed instructions and processes specific to school boards and schools.

<u>Section 3: Information for All.</u> This section provides information for First Nations and school boards to support the implementation of the REA including: negotiation of additional supports and services; late payments and arrears; existing agreements; and dispute resolution.

### New in 2025-26

### Base Fee changes:

Key updates to allocations within the elementary and secondary base fees for 2025-2026 include the following updates to the Core Education Funding (Core Ed), as outlined in memorandum 2025:B02 – 2025-26 Education Funding:

- Labour related updates including increases to salary benchmarks and other funding elements to reflect the final year of the 2022-26 collective agreements and the third year of the 2023-27 principal and vice-principal terms and conditions of employment. Employee Life and Health Trust benefits fundings amounts have been adjusted to reflect the outcome of the 2022-26 collective agreements for all employee groups. In addition, adjustments to benchmarks and components have been made to reflect salary increases on investments that are expected to be used for staffing but historically were not tied to any salary benchmark in the funding formula, including maternity leave and sick leave, the New Teacher Induction Program component, and the Specialist High Skills Major component.
- An update to the Indigenous Education Lead funding formula to better support the intention of the funding whereby school boards generate Lead funding only when a lead is employed in that role.
- The removal of time-limited recent immigrant supplement components as recent immigrant enrolment has returned to pre-pandemic levels provincially.
- The removal of the School Authorities Amalgamation Adjustment, introduced in 2009-10 when school authorities were amalgamated with district school boards, is being sunset as it is expected that school boards have now fully adjusted to the amalgamation.
- An update to the online learning and the in-person and remote learning credit load benchmarks to reflect a change to the assumption of the proportion of secondary students taking one online credit during the regular school day, equivalent to 16 per cent.
- Continued updates to data and formulas to reflect the second year of a five-year phase-in of 2021 Statistics Canada census data.
- A two per cent increase to the non-staff benchmarks in the School Operations
   Allocation to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e.,
   electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs), which is similar to prior
   years.

Refer to Appendix A for details on the allocations that are included, partially included, or excluded from the elementary and secondary base fee calculations. Based on school boards' estimates, the 2025-26 elementary and secondary base fees for each school board, will be posted on the ministry's website.

### Additional services and supports:

For school boards, the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) component continues to be based on an interim formula with adjustments to reflect benchmark updates in 2025-26. However, for the REA framework the process for negotiating additional special education staffing amounts will continue to reflect the 2022-23 claims-based approach. As in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 REA framework, the maximum claims-based amount is being updated to reflect annual benchmark updates.

For school boards, the Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA) funding was modernized beginning in 2024-25. To maintain stability for the 2025-26 REA framework, the process for negotiating additional special education equipment amounts will continue to reflect the 2023-24 SEA claims-based process.

# **SECTION 1: INFORMATION FOR FIRST NATIONS**

# A. Ensuring Eligibility

This section outlines eligibility requirements set out in the *Education Act* and related regulations required to initiate the REA.

### This section includes:

- ✓ Eligibility requirements for entities that operate First Nation schools
- √ Eligibility requirements for First Nation schools
- ✓ Information and timelines for providing documentation that demonstrates school eligibility
- √ Eligibility criteria for students who wish to attend a First Nation school under the REA
- √ Eligibility criteria for students who wish to attend a school of a school board under the REA

### **Table 1.1: Summary of Eligibility**

### **Entities that operate First Nation schools**

The *Education Act* specifies these as entities that:

- operate schools which may participate in the REA (i.e. an "eligible school"), and
- would be required to provide written notice to initiate the REA process (for a student to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board).

#### These entities are:

- a band.
- a council of a band,
- the Crown in right of Canada, or
- an education authority that is authorized by a band, a council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada.

(hereafter referred to as "First Nation Entity(ies)")

### **First Nation Schools**

Requirement(s)

**Note**: First Nation school eligibility is only applicable where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school under the REA. "First Nation school(s)" is a term used in this document to describe schools that are operated by a First Nation Entity and are located on- or off-reserve.

Please refer to the list of eligible schools provided on the ministry <u>website</u> for the most up-to-date list of eligible schools to participate in REA.

If a First Nation school is not listed on the ministry <u>website</u> and wishes to participate in the REA, the following requirements must be met:

1) The school must be operated by a First Nation Entity.

# 2) The school does not charge tuition to students, their parents or guardians.<sup>2</sup> Supporting Documentation 1) Band councils will be required to submit a Band Council Resolution.

Tribal Councils and Education Authorities must be incorporated and will be required to submit a board resolution or declaration.

This documentation must:

- State that the First Nation Entity providing the documentation operates the school.
- Include the name of the school and the legal and operating name (if the operating name is different than the legal name) of the First Nation Entity.
- 2) First Nation schools are required to submit an attestation that confirms the school does not charge tuition to students, their parents or guardians for elements of a classroom education that are required by, and generally common to, all students.

Required documentation must be submitted to the Indigenous Education Office of the Ministry of Education at <a href="LEO@ontario.ca">LEO@ontario.ca</a> by October 30 of a given school year to be eligible for that school year and each subsequent school year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Schools that charge tuition fees for students to other public entities (e.g., provincially-funded school boards, the federal government or other First Nations), and fees for room and board would still satisfy this requirement.

Confirmation of Eligibility	Upon receipt, the ministry will review the documentation to confirm the requirements have been met. This is a one-time requirement for each school.  Once eligibility has been confirmed, the First Nation School will be included on a list of eligible schools on the ministry's website.  First Nation Entities are required to notify the ministry if an eligible First Nation school is no longer in operation or if they no longer meet the eligibility requirements <sup>3</sup> .		
Students who wi	ish to attend a Fist Nation school under the REA		
Requirement(s)	<ul> <li>A pupil of the board, or</li> <li>A person under the age of 21 years old who is a resident of Ontario, and who is eligible to be a pupil of the board<sup>4</sup> in accordance with O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach).</li> <li>Note: For the purposes of student eligibility for the REA, a person who turns 21 years old on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of a given school year is deemed to be under 21 years of age.</li> </ul>		
Supporting Documentation	Supporting documentation will be required to demonstrate the following:  Right to permanently remain in Canada (e.g., band membership, citizenship status); and Residency in Ontario (i.e., home address).		
Confirmation of Eligibility	School boards will be required to confirm eligibility requirements for each student at the time of the student's registration with a school of the school board.  A complete written notice form is required for the school board to initiate the REA.		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> E.g., there is a change to the tuition fee policy at the First Nation school that makes the school ineligible for the REA. <sup>4</sup> For the purposes of the REA, the parent/guardian is not required to live within the catchment area of the school board for the pupil to be admitted as a pupil of the board.

Students who wish to attend a school of a school board under the REA				
Requirement(s)	The student is eligible to receive funding for elementary or secondary education from the federal government, a band, a council of a band, or an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the federal government.			
	2) The student ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the <i>Indian Act</i> (Canada)			
Supporting Documentation	The eligibility requirements noted above can be demonstrated with the written notice form which is delivered to the school of a school board.			
Confirmation of Eligibility	First Nation Entities are responsible for confirming student eligibility criteria on the written notice form.			

### B. Admission of Students Under the REA

This section outlines what is required to initiate a school board's obligations under the REA.

This section outlines:

- √ The written notice process, including:
  - Completing and submitting the written notice forms
  - o Registering with a school of a school board

**Note:** Admission of eligible students to First Nation schools is subject to the First Nation Entity's/First Nation school's admission policies.

### The Written Notice Process

The written notice initiates a school board's obligation to support an eligible student's admission to an eligible First Nation school or to a school of a school board.

Written notice must be provided for each student and is a one-time requirement. Meaning, the written notice will generally not be required in future years for that student, unless the participating First Nation Entity changes, the student changes First Nation schools, or the student moves to a new school board.

Templates for the written notice are in <u>Appendix B</u> and on the ministry's <u>website</u>. Two written notice templates are available. Ensure you select the correct template. This will be either:

- written notice for eligible students to attend an eligible First Nation school; or
- written notice for eligible students to attend a school of a school board

Written notice provided in any format is valid if it includes all the mandatory fields and signatures, including the consent and notice of collection of personal information, as indicated in the written notice template on the ministry's website.

### Completing and Submitting the Written Notice

The following persons must complete all mandatory sections of the written notice:

- 1. the First Nation Entity<sup>5</sup>; and
- 2. one of the following:
  - a. the parent, or
  - b. the guardian<sup>6</sup>, or
  - c. in some instances, the student <sup>7</sup>; or
  - d. "Another Authorized Person", as follows:
    - i. An adult person who is authorized by the parent, guardian or student (as noted in a, b and c above) to provide the notice<sup>8</sup>; or
    - ii. An adult person who facilitates the student's access to education; or
    - iii. An adult person from the student's "extended family"<sup>9</sup>, as defined in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*:

Parents, guardians, students and/or Another Authorized Person are advised to work with their Band, Tribal Council, Education Authority or the federal government, as the case may be, to complete these forms.

Written notice must be delivered by the First Nation Entity, parent, guardian, student or Another Authorized Person to the school of a school board at which the student is currently registered or planning to register.

The written notice may be submitted by post mail, electronic mail, facsimile (fax) or hand delivered.

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

 Written notice must be delivered to the school of a school board at which the student is registered or in the catchment area in which the student resides.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Refer to Section 1, Table 1.1: Summary of Eligibility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See above footnotes for explanations and definitions of guardian and student in this instance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Extended family, in this context, means persons to whom a child is related, including through a spousal relationship or adoption and, in the case of a First Nations child, includes any member of,

<sup>•</sup> a band of which the child is a member,

<sup>•</sup> a band with which the child identifies,

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

<sup>•</sup> a First Nations community with which the child identifies.

- If the student does not reside within the catchment area of any school board, written notice must be delivered to a school of a school board that is nearby.
- Where there are coterminous school boards (boards whose catchment areas overlap), the notice should be delivered to the English-language public school board.
- If the student was not previously enrolled/registered, the school of the school board which receives the written notice must verify the student's eligibility in accordance with the ministry's enrolment policies as set out in the <u>Enrolment</u> <u>Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools</u>.

For a student residing on-reserve wishing to attend a school of a school board<sup>10</sup>:

- Written notice must be delivered to the school of a school board at which the student is registered or is planning to register.
- If the student is not already registered with a school of a school board, the student
  must register at the school where the written notice form was delivered in
  accordance with the ministry's enrolment policies as set out in <u>Enrolment Register</u>
  Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools.
  - For more information regarding registering at a school of a school board, see the section below titled: "Registering with a School of a School Board."

It is the responsibility of the First Nation Entity, parent, guardian, student and/or Another Authorized Person to ensure the school receives the written notice. If you have not received confirmation within 10 business days, follow up directly with the school to confirm receipt of the written notice.

The written notice may be delivered to the school of the board at any time during the school year. Outside of the school year, please deliver the written notice to the school board responsible for the school. Refer to <a href="Section 1">Section 1</a>, <a href="Part C: Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students">Students</a> for information about how students will be funded based on admission timelines.

### Registering with a School of a School Board

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

- The school of a school board must verify the student's eligibility to support the flow of funding from the school board to the First Nation Entity operating the First Nation school.
- If the student is not currently registered as a student with a school of a school board, the student should register at the school of the school board where the written notice form was delivered. The written notice can also be submitted at the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The REA ensures admission to a school of the board but does not guarantee admission to a specific school (i.e., admission to a specific school may be subject to space availability).

- time of registration.
- To register with a school of a school board, the parent, guardian, student, or Another Authorized Person must provide the following documentation that demonstrates the student's eligibility to be enrolled as a pupil of the board:
  - Their right to permanently remain in Canada (e.g., band membership, citizenship status); and
  - o Their residency in Ontario (e.g., home address(es).
- A student who is currently enrolled at a school of a school board prior to delivering the written notice is only required to deliver a complete written notice to the school in which the student is currently enrolled.

For a student residing on-reserve wishing to attend a school of a school board:

- If the student is not already registered with a school of a school board, the student must register at, and ensure the written notice is delivered to, the school they intend to attend.
- The student and their parent, guardian or Another Authorized Person will be required to provide documentation supporting the student's enrolment at the school of the school board. Please work with the school's office administrator regarding the school board's admission policies.
- A student who is currently registered or attending a school of a school board is only required to deliver a complete written notice form to the school in which the student is currently registered or attending. No further action is required.

## C. Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students

This section outlines how payment and fees charged to First Nation Entities will be calculated and processed.

This section includes:

- ✓ School board obligations
- ✓ Calculation of the elementary and secondary base fees
- ✓ Payment processes
- ✓ Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Submission of the Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Determining full-time equivalency (FTE) status
- ✓ Payment timelines for First Nation Entities and/or schools

### School Board Obligations

Provided eligibility requirements are met and complete written notice has been received, a school board is required to register the student and provide elementary or secondary base fee funding for each student attending an eligible First Nation school, or to admit the student and charge the First Nation Entity the elementary or secondary base fee for each student<sup>11</sup> attending a school of a school board.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Proportional to their enrolment. See below Table 1.2: Determining Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Status.

### Calculation of the Elementary and Secondary Base Fees

The "base fee" is the amount that a school board is required to pay a First Nation Entity that operates the First Nation school an elementary or secondary student is attending under REA. The base fee is the same amount that the school board is required to charge the First Nation Entity for a First Nation elementary or secondary student<sup>12</sup> who ordinarily resides on-reserve and is attending a school of a school board.

School boards do not determine their elementary or secondary base fee. The base fee is designed to estimate the average incremental cost of accommodating an additional student at any given school board. The base fees are determined using a standardized calculation that is derived from the same formulas as the Core Ed. This means the base fee uses most of the elements of the provincial funding formula (the Core Ed) (with modifications, where necessary) that pertain to an additional student in the regular school day within any given school board.

For further details, see O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach), the annual Fees regulation and the base fee calculations set out in the Enrolment section of the annual Education Funding Technical Guide.

The elementary and secondary base fee amounts are:

- Unique to each school board.
  - The base fee calculations are based on funding for the school board to which written notice has been provided.
  - In the case where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school, this would generally be the school board in which the student is currently enrolled. However, if the student is not currently enrolled in a school of a school board, it would be,
    - The school board catchment area within which the student and their parent or guardian currently reside; or
    - Where the student and their parent or guardian do not reside in any school board's catchment area, a nearby board.
- Per pupil amounts, which will be the same for each elementary or secondary full-time student registered during the regular school day with any given school board; and
- Different amounts each year, as school board enrolment and other circumstances change and as the province updates the funding formula.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Proportional to their enrolment. See below Table 1.2: Determining Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Status.

A list of each school board's elementary and secondary base fees, based on their estimates for the given school year, will be posted on the ministry's website in advance of each school year.

Please see <u>Appendix A</u> for details on the Core Ed allocations that are included, partially included or excluded from the 2025-26 elementary and secondary REA base fee calculations.

**Note:** Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend, a First Nation school, an agreement may be negotiated for the provision of additional services and supports for which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend, a school of a school board, O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies the additional services and supports for which a board may charge a First Nation Entity in addition to the base fee. Refer to Section 3: Information for All for more information.

### Payment Processes

To help ensure transparent processes for all parties, the ministry has established a standardized payment process for flowing funds and charging fees to First Nation Entities.

To support the funding flowed and fees charged to First Nation Entities, students attending First Nation schools and schools of school boards will be identified on an ongoing basis each year. This will help initiate the payment process and will be based on student enrolment on two dates in each school year, referred to as "count dates<sup>13</sup>".

### Student Enrolment List

Entities operating First Nation schools (and/or First Nation schools) and school boards will be required to provide a **complete** list of students attending their respective schools under the REA as documentation that students are active as of the count dates of a given school year.

This Student Enrolment List must include the following information:

- Ontario Education Number (OEN) (as applicable);
- The student's surname and first name:
- Date of birth:
- Grade level;
- The name of the school the student is attending;
- School semester type; and,
- Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) status based on the student's scheduled time for day school programming (see <u>Table 1.2: Determining FTE Status</u> for calculation details).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Last school day of October and March

First Nation schools and school boards are also encouraged to provide student timetables as part of the verification process for funding purposes.

The Student Enrolment List must also meet the following requirements specified below.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation school (or First Nation Entity operating that school) submits a
  Student Enrolment List to each "home" school board for payment purposes.
  Payments can only be provided for students by the school board at which they are
  registered. The First Nation Entity or First Nation school must identify the students
  by their "home" school board and include the OEN number assigned to that
  student.
  - on the student Enrolment List must be provided to the school board based on the timelines specified in <a href="Table 1.3">Table 1.3</a>: Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines and <a href="Table 1.4">Table 1.4</a>: Summary of Payment Cycle. Late submissions will be processed as part of the subsequent payment cycle. For example, if valid documentation to support the second payment is submitted past the specified deadline, the payment will be processed as part of the third payment cycle.
- The list must include an attestation from the First Nation Entity or First Nation school confirming the data accurately reflects the active students at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- School boards must submit one consolidated Student Enrolment List to each First Nation Entity within 30 days following the two count dates in each school year (last school day of October and March).
  - This means that First Nations will be charged for students attending a school of a school board twice per school year.
  - Boards will set payment deadlines of within 90 days from the submission of the Student Enrolment Lists.
- The list must include an attestation by the Director of Education of the school board confirming that the list accurately reflects the active pupils at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of the school board, the school board may provide other documentation (e.g., copy of the written notice form, confirmation of the student's status) to the First Nation Entity as requested, and in accordance with the school board's policies and its obligations under relevant legislation, including the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

A sample Student Enrolment List template is provided as Appendix D for reference.

### Submission of the Student Enrolment List

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation school (or First Nation Entity operating that school) will send the Student Enrolment List to the attention of both the Supervisory Officer responsible for Indigenous Education and the Business Supervisory Officer at the school board office for payment purposes. This document may be submitted electronically or by post.
- Include payment information with the submission of your Student Enrolment List so that school board can make payments per the payment schedule timeline.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- School boards will send the Student Enrolment List to the First Nation Entity
  named on the written notice form submitted for each student, and to the attention
  of the contact named on the same form.
- School boards will include payment information with the submission of the Student Enrolment List so that First Nation Entities can arrange payment accordingly.
- To make alternative arrangements for the submission of documentation or payment, First Nation Entities are asked to work directly with the school boards.
   The First Nation Entity is responsible for reviewing the submission and validating the components to their satisfaction.

### Table 1.2: Determining Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Status

### Where a student is attending a First Nation school

The full-time equivalent (FTE) status follows the provincial guidelines outlined in the <u>Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools</u> for the given school year.

A student's FTE status is calculated by the average number of minutes of instruction per day for which the student is enrolled.

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status for that student is deemed to be a full-time student for that count date (i.e. the FTE status equals 1 on the last school day of October or March of a given school year).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a First Nation school on the last school day of October or March of each school year and dividing that figure by 300<sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The minimum number of instructional minutes that school boards are required to provide to their students each school day.

The student's FTE status is the average of the FTE status determined on both the October and March count dates of a given school year.

**Note**: If a First Nation school is providing remote learning, and chooses to submit student timetables, please note that they should reflect student schedules as if students were to return to in-class instruction for the 2025-26 school year.

### Where a student is attending a school of a school board

The FTE status follows the provincial guidelines, as outlined in the Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) part of the annual regulation for Core Ed.

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day<sup>15</sup>, the FTE status for that student is deemed to be a full-time student (i.e. the FTE status equals 1).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a provincially funded school in a cycle, divided by the product of 300 minutes multiplied by the number of days in the cycle<sup>16</sup> on the last school day of October or March of each school year.

If a student is a supervised alternative learning pupil, then the student is only required to be enrolled in classroom instruction for an average of 70 minutes or more per day to be considered a full-time student.

**Note:** For students who are participating in remote learning, a timetable must be available to reflect student schedules as if students were to return to in-class instruction for the 2025-26 school year.

# Payment Timelines for First Nation Entities and/or Schools

**Important Note:** Funding can only be provided for students and schools with documented eligibility requirements in place. Refer to <u>Section 1, Part A: Ensuring Eligibility</u>, for details on how students and schools must document eligibility and important timelines impacting payments.

<u>Table 1.3: Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines</u> outlines the documentation required for First Nation Entities and/or schools to submit to school boards and the associated payments from school boards to the First Nation Entities and/or schools. The payment schedule reflects the payment school boards are required to make

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> If a student is a supervised alternative learning pupil, then the student is only required to be enrolled in classroom instruction for an average of 70 minutes or more per day to be considered a full-time student.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Cycle means the number of school days for which a schedule of classes in a school continues before the schedule is repeated.

to First Nations Entities or schools based on documentation available at the time of processing.

**Table 1.3: Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines** 

Where a student is attending a First Nation school under the REA:

Payment Description	Documentation Requirements	Due Date to School Board	Payment Schedule
Preliminary payment	Completed written notices provided to a school of a school board and/or number of students on existing RESAs.	For the purposes of the preliminary payment, only those written notices received no later than September 30 of each year will be counted.  Note: Written notices may be submitted and processed at any time during the school year.	First week of December
Second payment	Student Enrolment List	Last business day in November	First week of March
Third payment	Student Enrolment List	Last business day in April	First week of August
Fourth Payment  (Not required for schools which adopted a conventional model and submitted third payment information)	Student Enrolment List	Last business day in July	First week of November

**Table 1.4: Summary of Payment Cycle** 

	Covering period	Conventional model	Quadmester model
Preliminary Payment	September 1 to November 30	Based on <b>estimated</b> registration of eligible students at each eligible First Nation school.	Based on <b>estimated</b> registration of eligible students at each eligible First Nation school.

Second Payment	December 1 to March 31  - A reconciliation of preliminary payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the October count date.	Based on total estimated FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the October count date.
Third Payment	April 1 to June 30  - A reconciliation of second payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the October 31 count date and total estimated FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.
Fourth Payment  (Not required for schools which adopted a conventional model and submitted third payment information)	April 1 to June 30  - A reconciliation of second/third payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.

# SECTION 2: INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL BOARDS

# A. Ensuring Eligibility

This section outlines eligibility requirements set out in the *Education Act* and related regulations and the school board's responsibilities regarding the REA.

#### This section includes:

- √ Eligibility requirements for entities that operate First Nation schools
- √ Eligibility requirements for First Nation schools
- √ Eligibility criteria for students who ordinarily reside off-reserve and who
  attend, or wish to attend a First Nation school
- √ Eligibility criteria for students who ordinarily reside on-reserve and who attend, or wish to attend, a school of a school board

For each First Nation school, confirmation of eligibility is a one-time requirement.

### Table 2.1: Summary of Eligibility

### **Entities that operate First Nation schools**

The *Education Act* specifies the entities that:

- operate schools which may participate in the REA (i.e. an "eligible school"), and
- must provide written notice to initiate the REA process (for a student to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board).

### These entities are:

- a band.
- a council of a band,
- the Crown in right of Canada, or
- an education authority that is authorized by a band, a council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada

(hereafter referred to as "First Nation Entity(ies)")

### **First Nation Schools**

**Note**: First Nation school eligibility is only applicable where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school under the REA. "First Nation school(s)" is a term used in this document to describe schools that are operated by a First Nation Entity and are located on- or off-reserve.

Please refer to the list of eligible schools provided on the ministry <u>website</u> for the most up-to-date list of eligible schools to participate in REA.

Requirement(s)	1) The school must be operated by a First Nation Entity.
	2) The school does not charge tuition to students or their parents or guardians <sup>17</sup>
Confirming Eligibility	A list of eligible First Nation schools is published on the ministry website. School boards must verify that the school is on the list of eligible schools for the REA. If the school cannot be verified, contact the ministry's Indigenous Education Office.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Schools that charge tuition fees for students to other public entities (e.g., provincially-funded school boards, the federal government or other First Nations), and fees for room and board would still satisfy this requirement.

Students who wish to attend a First Nation school under REA				
Requirements	<ul> <li>Person must be:         <ul> <li>A pupil of the board, or</li> </ul> </li> <li>A person under the age of 21 years old, who is resident of Ontario, and who is <i>eligible</i> to be a pupil of the board<sup>18</sup> (i.e., not an "other pupil").</li> <li>Note: For the purposes of student eligibility for the REA, a person who turns 21 years old on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of a given school year is deemed to be under 21 years of age.</li> </ul>			
Confirming Eligibility	School boards must verify that the student is eligible to be registered as a <i>pupil of the board</i> in accordance with the ministry's enrolment policies.  School boards will be required to confirm eligibility requirements for each student at the time of the student's registration with a school of the school board.  A complete written notice form is required to initiate a school board's obligation to support an eligible student's admission to an eligible First Nation school.			
Student who wis	sh to attend a school of a school board under REA			
Requirement(s)	The student is eligible to receive funding for elementary or secondary education from the federal government, a band, a council of a band, or an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the federal government      The student ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning			
Confirming Eligibility	<ul> <li>These eligibility requirements must be demonstrated in the written notice form (or equivalent documentation) delivered to the school of a school board <sup>19</sup></li> <li>The school board will validate that the necessary eligibility requirements have been met through the written notice (or equivalent documentation). See Section 2, Part B: Admission of Students Under the REA; Validating the Written Notice for further details.</li> </ul>			

 <sup>18</sup> For the purposes of the REA, the parent/guardian is not required to live within the catchment area of the school board for the pupil to be admitted as a pupil of the board.
 19 The First Nation Entity or school is required to confirm the student's eligibility and residence for funding purposes through these fields in the written notice form (and/or other supporting documentation).

### B. Admission of Students Under the REA

This section outlines what is required of school boards under the REA. This section outlines:

- √ The written notice process, including:
  - Validating the written notice
  - Registration of students

Note: Admission of eligible students to First Nation schools is subject to the First Nation Entity's/First Nation school's admission policies.

### Written Notice Process

The written notice initiates a school board's obligation to support an eligible student's admission to an eligible First Nation school or a school of a school board.

Provided the requirements have all been met, upon receipt of the written notice, the school board is required to:

- Ensure the student is registered at a school of that school board, or
- Provide or charge the base fee funding to the First Nation Entity for the student.

Written notice must be submitted for each student as a one-time requirement. Generally, this means the written notice will not be required in future years for that student, unless the participating First Nation Entity changes, the student attends another First Nation school, or moves to a new school board.

The written notice is to be completed and provided by:

- 1. the First Nation Entity<sup>20</sup>; and
- 2. one of the following persons:
  - a. the parent, or
  - b. the guardian<sup>21</sup>, or
  - c. in some instances, the student<sup>22</sup>; or
  - d. Another Authorized Person:
    - i. An adult person who is authorized in writing by the parent, guardian or student to provide the notice<sup>23</sup>; or
    - ii. An adult person who facilitates the student's access to education; or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Refer to Table 2.1: Summary of Eligibility for the list of First Nation Entities which may provide notice.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 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).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See above footnotes for explanations and definitions of guardian and student in this instance.

iii. An adult person from the student's extended family<sup>24</sup>, as defined in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017:* 

Written notice will be provided to the school of a school board at which the student is currently registered (i.e., as a pupil of the board or on an existing or expired ESA) or where the student intends to register.

If the student is not registered with a school of a school board, the student must register at the school of the school board where the written notice has been or will be delivered. The student may register with the school board at the time of delivering the written notice.

Written notice may be submitted by post mail, electronic mail, facsimile (fax) or handdelivered.

Written notice provided in any format is valid if it includes all the mandatory fields and signatures, including the consent and notice of collection of personal information, as indicated in the written notice template on the ministry's website. Templates of the written notice templates that may be used are available on the ministry's <u>website</u>.

### Validating the Written Notice

Schools are responsible for ensuring that:

- The consent and notice of collection of personal information in the written notice includes contact information for an officer or employee of the school board who can answer questions about the collection of personal information, and
  - Any necessary adjustments to the consent and notice of collection as may be required to comply with their obligations, including any under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, are made.
- All mandatory fields and signatures in the written notice are completed by both:
  - o The First Nation Entity<sup>25</sup>, and
  - o the parent, guardian<sup>26</sup>, in some instances the student,<sup>27</sup> or Another Authorized Person.
- Where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school, the school that the student wishes to attend is an eligible school (please see list of eligible schools).

a band with which the child identifies,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Extended family, in this context, means persons to whom a child is related, including through a spousal relationship or adoption and, in the case of a First Nations child, includes any member of,

<sup>•</sup> a band of which the child is a member,

<sup>•</sup> a First Nations community of which the child is a member, and

<sup>•</sup> a First Nations community with which the child identifies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Refer to <u>Table 2.1: Summary of Eligibility</u> for a list of First Nation Entities that may provide written notice to the school board to initiate the REA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

- Where a student wishes to attend a school of a school board, schools are to consider the student as eligible for the REA in this context if the First Nation Entity has signed off on the two student eligibility fields in the written notice, as follows:
  - The above-named pupil is eligible to receive funding from the Crown in right of Canada, or a band, a council of a band, an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the Crown in right of Canada.
  - The above-named pupil ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the *Indian Act* (Canada).

Schools are responsible for notifying First Nation Entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person named on the written notice form of any components of the form that are incomplete.

School boards must retain a copy of the written notice forms for auditing purposes for the current school year plus two previous school years.

### Registration of Students

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

- If a student was not previously enrolled with a school of a school board, the school
  will verify the student's eligibility according to the Ministry of Education's enrolment
  policies set out in the <u>Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and
  Secondary Schools</u> for the given school year.
- Once a complete written notice form is provided and the student's eligibility is verified, the school board must enrol the student by including the relevant information in the Student Information Report. The Student Information Report acts as an enrolment register for these students. These students must not be included on the enrolment register for day school students. Please refer to Table 2.1: Summary of Eligibility for further information on student eligibility.
  - If the student is a current pupil of the board, that student must be removed from the enrolment register for day school students.
  - The student may begin attending the First Nation school on the later of the two dates specified on the written notice, subject to that First Nation school's admission policies.
  - Refer to <u>Section 2</u>, <u>Part C: Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation</u>
     <u>Entities for Students</u>; <u>School Board Administrative Processes</u> for further information about documenting and reporting these students for funding purposes.
- Schools are required to retain the documentation supporting enrolment (registration/attestation information and the Student Enrolment Lists provided by First Nations) and copies of the written notice for each student for the current and the previous two school years for auditing purposes.

For a student wishing to attend a school of a school board:

- Provided that the eligibility requirements are demonstrated in the written notice, the school board must register the student as an "other pupil" in accordance with the enrolment policies set out in the <u>Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and</u> Secondary Schools.
- Schools are required to retain the documentation supporting enrolment and copies
  of the written notice for each student to support the invoicing process with the First
  Nation Entity.
- In the case where a student is currently registered as an "other pupil" at the school
  of a school board prior to delivering the written notice, there is no further action
  required by the school board in terms of registration (refer to <u>Section 2, Part C:</u>
  <u>Payment and Fees Charged to the First Nation Entities for Students</u> for next steps).
  The student may begin attending the school of the school board where the written
  notice was delivered.

### Ontario Student Record (OSR)

The written notice form submitted to a school of a school board includes key information and obligations to support the complete registration and transfer of a student, including:

- the student's OEN number, if available, and
- a commitment to, or a request from, the First Nation Entity to transfer the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR).

It is not necessary to use the written notice form in order to request a transfer of a student's OSR. Any written request that sets out the information needed as outlined in the OSR guideline, should be acted upon.

If a student will be attending a school of a school board, the board is encouraged to contact the First Nation Entity to confirm if an OSR exists for the student in question and request the First Nation Entity transfer the record if it exists.

If it has been ascertained that an OSR does not exist or is not available, then the board should create an OSR for the student for its own records (student will be attending a school of the school board) or create and prioritize the transfer of the new OSR to the First Nation Entity that operates the school the student intends to attend.

As detailed in the Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guideline, First Nation-operated and federally-operated schools may, but are not required to, establish and maintain an OSR for their students.

### Ontario Education Number (OEN)

In the case where an OEN was not provided in the written notice form, it is recommended that the board contact the respective First Nation school to confirm if an OEN exists for the

student in question. If not, the board should search the OEN Registry to verify that an OEN was never assigned to the student by another school. If it has been ascertained, from both sources, that an OEN was not previously provided, then the board should assign an OEN to the student.

School boards are encouraged to take the steps above for both students transferring from within the school board's jurisdiction, and those transferring from outside the school board's jurisdiction (i.e. First Nation- or federally-operated schools), respectively.

## C. Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students

This section outlines how funding and fees charged to First Nation Entities operating a First Nation school will be calculated and processed.

This section includes:

- √ School board obligations
- √ Calculation of the elementary and secondary base fees
- ✓ Payment processes
- √ School board administrative processes
- √ Student Enrolment List
- √ Submission of the Student Enrolment List
- √ Determining Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) status
- √ Summary of school board reporting and payment schedule
- √ Summary of payment cycle descriptions
- √ Audits

### School Board Obligations

Once written notice has been provided and validated, a school board must provide base fee funding for each student attending an eligible First Nation school or admit the student to a school of a school board and charge the First Nation Entity the appropriate base fee. The ministry will provide base fee funding to school boards to support the base fee payments to First Nation Entities.

### Calculation of the Elementary and Secondary Base Fees

The "base fee" is the amount that a school board is required to pay a First Nation Entity that operates the First Nation school an elementary or secondary student<sup>28</sup> is attending under REA and is the same amount that the school board is required to charge the First Nation Entity for a First Nation elementary or secondary student who ordinarily resides on-reserve attending a school of a school board.

The elementary and secondary base fees, unique to each school board, are per pupil amounts updated annually and set out in regulation. There is one base fee for elementary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Proportional to their enrolment. See above Table 1.2: Determining Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Status.

students and one base fee for secondary students in each school board. The base fee is designed to estimate the average incremental cost of accommodating an additional student at any given school board. The base fees are determined using a standardized calculation that is derived from the same formulas as the Core Ed (with modifications, where necessary). This means the base fee uses most of the elements of the provincial funding formula (the Core Ed) that pertain to an additional student in the regular school day within any given school board.

For further details, see section 4 of the <u>O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach)</u>, the annual Fees regulation and the base fee calculations set out in the Enrolment section of the annual <u>Core Education Funding: Technical Guide for School Boards</u>.

A list of each school board's elementary and secondary base fees, based on estimates for the given school year, will be posted on the ministry's website in advance of each school year. School boards will also have access to their base fee calculations through the Education Financial Information System (EFIS).

Please see <u>Appendix A</u> for details on the Core Ed allocations that are included, partially included or excluded from the 2025-26 elementary and secondary REA base fee calculations.

**Note**: Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend a First Nation school, an agreement may be negotiated for the provision of additional services and supports in which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. Where a student is attending or wishes to attend a school of a school board, O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies the additional services and supports for which a board may charge a First Nation Entity, in addition to the base fee. Refer to Section 3: Information for All for more information.

### Payment Processes

To help ensure a transparent process for all parties, the ministry has established a standardized payment process for flowing funds and charging fees to First Nation Entities. This includes specific documentation requirements and submission timelines which apply to school boards and First Nation Entities and/or schools.

To support the flowing of funds and charging of fees to First Nation entities, students attending First Nation schools and schools of school boards will be identified on an ongoing basis each year. This will help initiate the payment process and will be based on enrolment on two dates in each school year, referred to as "count dates".

Important Note: Funding will be provided only for students and schools with documented eligibility requirements in place. Refer to <a href="Section 2">Section 2</a>, <a href="Part A: Ensuring Eligibility">Part A: Ensuring Eligibility</a> for further details regarding eligibility and refer to <a href="Table 2.2">Table 2.2</a>: <a href="Summary of School Board Reporting">Summary of School Board Reporting</a> and <a href="Payment Schedules">Payment Schedules</a> and <a href="Table 2.3">Table 2.3</a>: <a href="Summary of Payment Cycle">Summary of Payment Cycle</a> for timelines impacting payments.

### School Board Administrative Processes

School boards must establish administrative processes to ensure accurate, up-to-date information is reported to the ministry in accordance with the established deadlines. This will require:

- Regular collection of REA student registration information from schools for consolidated ministry reporting (i.e., written notice forms and related data to complete ministry reporting);
  - Schools will be required to retain copies of the written notice forms, student registration information and Student Enrolment Lists in accordance with ministry auditing guidelines as outlined in the <u>Enrolment Register Instructions</u> <u>for Elementary and Secondary Schools</u> for funding purposes and to support fees charged to First Nation Entities.
- Collection and reconciliation of student enrolment information from First Nation Entities (and/or schools) following each count date (this must be reconciled against student registration information from schools);
  - The ministry has set deadlines for reporting by First Nation Entities and school boards.
  - School boards will be required to prepare a Student Enrolment List which lists the students attending a school of a school board under the REA which must be submitted to each First Nation Entity.
  - Further details on the requirements of the Student Enrolment List that First Nation Entities (and/or schools) and school boards must prepare are provided below.
- School boards are to submit a Student Information Report to the ministry, documenting pupils of the board who are attending First Nation schools. To complete the report, school boards will refer to the written notice for each student (provided by schools of the school board) and the Student Enrolment List (provided by the First Nation Entities and/or schools);
  - This Student Information Report will serve as the register for pupils of the board attending a First Nation school for the 2025-26 school year<sup>29</sup>.
  - This Student Information Report must be submitted to the ministry up to four times per school year through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS).
    - E-mail: <u>ONSIS SISON@Ontario.ca</u> should you require support or detailed instructions for submitting the Student Information Report through OnSIS.
  - The ministry will review the submission and provide base fee funding to the school board for the eligible students attending a First Nation school under the REA. School boards will then make payments to the First Nation Entity.
- Late submissions will be processed as part of the subsequent payment cycle;

<sup>29</sup> **Note:** Do not include First Nation students attending a school of a school board under section 188 of the *Education Act* (i.e., the REA or existing ESA) on the Student Information Report. These students will continue to be recorded as "Other Pupils" on the enrolment register. Refer to the *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools* for further details.

- o If the submission is late by more than one year, the school board should contact the <u>Finance Officer</u> (FO) assigned to the board and submit the prior year information separately from the current year submission.
- Monitoring and tracking payments to First Nation Entities based on student reporting (e.g., payments must be made to the First Nation Entity named on each student's written notice form); and,
- School boards are to retain copies of the documentation received from the First Nation Entity for auditing purposes.

### Student Enrolment List

First Nation Entities (and/or schools) and school boards will be required to provide a **complete** list of students attending their respective schools under the REA as documentation that students are active as of the count dates and showing each student's Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) status.

This Student Enrolment List must include the following information:

- Ontario Education Number (OEN);
- The student's surname and first name;
- Date of birth;
- Grade level;
- The name of the school the student is attending;
- School semester type; and,
- FTE status based on calculation set out in section 4 of <u>O. Reg. 261/19</u> (Reciprocal Education Approach).

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation Entity or school must provide the list to each school board<sup>30</sup>, so that the list aligns with the students on each school board's Student Information Report, which is prepared based on students for whom written notice has been received and/or existing RESAs are in place.
- If a school board receives a list with students who are not on that board's Student Information Report, notify the First Nation Entity as quickly as possible to allow for updates.
- School boards are to receive Student Enrolment Lists from First Nation Entities and/or schools based on the timelines specified in <u>Section 1, Table 1.3:</u> <u>Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines</u>. Late submissions will be processed as part of the subsequent payment cycle.
- The Student Enrolment List must include an attestation from the First Nation Entity confirming that the list accurately reflects the active students at the time of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Many First Nation schools will have students from multiple school boards. First Nation entities are asked to identify their REA students by their "home" school board and the OEN number assigned to that student.

- count date.
- Upon receipt of the Student Enrolment List, school boards must confirm that
  payment information has been included. If additional information is required to
  provide timely payments, the school board should connect with the First
  Nation Entity directly.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- The school board must provide a consolidated Student Enrolment List which lists the students for whom a First Nation Entity has provided written notice to each First Nation Entity.
- The list must be provided within 30 days following the two provincial count dates (last school days in October and March) in each school year.
- The list must include an attestation from the Director of Education confirming that the list accurately reflects the active students at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board under the REA, the school board may provide other documentation (e.g., copy of the written notice form, confirmation of student's status), to the First Nation Entity as requested, and in accordance with the school board's policies and its obligations under relevant legislation, including the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

First Nation Entities and school boards are also encouraged to provide student timetables as part of the verification process for funding purposes.

A Student Enrolment List template is provided as <u>Appendix D</u> for reference. School boards and First Nation Entities may submit information in another format as long as the information from the fields identified in the template are included.

### Submission of the Student Enrolment List

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- First Nation Entities (and/or schools) have been directed to address the Student Enrolment List to the attention of both the Supervisory Officer responsible for Indigenous Education and the Business Supervisory Officer at the school board office and may submit by electronic mail or by post mail.
- The Student Enrolment List should include payment information with the submission so that school boards will be able to make payments per the payment schedule timeline. Where this information is missing or incomplete, the school board should reach out to the First Nation Entity for the information.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

 School boards must send the Student Enrolment List to the First Nation Entity named on the written notice submitted for each student to the attention of the

- contact named on the written notice.
- The Student Enrolment List must include payment information with the submission so that First Nation Entities can arrange payment accordingly.
- To make alternative arrangements for the submission of documentation or payment, First Nation Entities are asked to work directly with the school boards.

### Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedule

<u>Table 2.2: Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Cycles</u> (see below) provides a summary of timelines and reporting dates impacting school boards, and associated documentation requirements. School boards' reports to the ministry will be dependent on school-level information; school boards are expected to set deadlines and manage school-level reporting internally.

The payment schedule below reflects the schedule of payments school boards are required to make to First Nation Entities based on documentation available at the time of processing. School boards may provide earlier or more frequent payments at their discretion and work with First Nation Entities directly to arrange adjustments to the schedule.

Table 2.2: Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Cycles

Where a student is attending a First Nations school:

Payment	Due Date to School Boards	School Board Documentation Requirements	Due Date to Ministry	Payment to School Boards <sup>31</sup>	Payment to First Nation Entities
Preliminary payment ('September REA' data submission)	September 30	Student Information Report – Section A & B	10 <sup>th</sup> business day in October	Third week of November	
Second Payment  ('October REA' data submission/count date)	Last business day in November	Student Information Report – Section A, B and C	Last business day in December	Third week of February	Within 10 business days
Third Payment  ('March REA' data submission/count date)	Last business day in April	Student Information Report – Section A, B, C and D	Last business day in May	Third week of July	of receipt of ministry payment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> The ministry will only flow one lump sum to the school board for each payment cycle. It is the school boards responsibility to flow payments to each First Nation Entity accordingly.

Fourth Payment	Last	Student	Last	Third week	
('June REA' data	business day in July	Information Report – <b>Section</b>	business day in	of October	
submission)		A, B, C and D*	August		
(Not required for schools which adopted					
a conventional model					
and submitted third payment information)					

**Table 2.3: Summary of Payment Cycle** 

	Covering period	Conventional model	Quadmester model
Preliminary Payment	Payment for students will be provided covering the period of September 1 to November 30.	Based on <b>estimated</b> registration of eligible students at each eligible First Nation school.	Based on <b>estimated</b> registration of eligible students at each eligible First Nation school.
Second Payment	Payment for students will be provided covering the period of December 1 to March 31.  A reconciliation of preliminary payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the October count date.	Based on total <b>estimated</b> FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the <b>October</b> count date.
Third Payment	Payment for students will be provided covering the period of April 1 to June 30.  A reconciliation of second payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the October 31 count date and total estimated FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.
Fourth Payment  (Not required for schools which adopted a conventional model and submitted third payment information)	Payment for students will be provided covering the period of April 1 to June 30.  A reconciliation of second/third payment will be made.	Based on total actual FTE of active students at each First Nation school at the March count date.	The payment is based on total <i>actual</i> FTE of <i>active</i> students at each First Nation school at the <b>March</b> count date.

An agreement may be negotiated for specific additional services, Refer to <u>Section 3:</u> <u>Information for All</u> for more information.

### Audits

The ministry requires that, for audit purposes, pupil enrolment records and various related documents be retained for the *current school year and the previous two school years*. Retention beyond that minimum period is to be carried out in accordance with the school board's record management program and any other applicable record retention requirements for the board

First Nation schools and school boards will be required to provide records such as student timetables or a pupil eligibility attestation form as part of the verification process for funding purposes.

# **SECTION 3: INFORMATION FOR ALL**

# A. Negotiation of additional services and supports

This section outlines the services and supports for which funding may be provided **in addition** to the base fee where a student is attending a First Nation school or a school of a school board under the REA.

### This section includes:

- ✓ Additional services and supports
  - Overview of additional special education staffing
  - Overview of special education equipment costs
  - Transportation amounts
  - o Indigenous languages and First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies courses
- ✓ Late payment and arrears
- ✓ Existing agreements
- ✓ Dispute resolution
- ✓ First Nation trustees

### Additional Services and Supports

School boards and First Nation Entities may negotiate additional services and supports for which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. These additional funds may be provided only if the school board and the First Nation Entity enter into an agreement that sets out the additional funds to be paid.

**Note:** The categories of additional items that can be negotiated are not limited to special education amounts (e.g., transportation).

Where a student is attending a school of a school board, school boards may only

negotiate additional services and supports and charge First Nation Entities, for the following services and supports:

- Special education staffing (to support the health and/or safety of the student);
- Special education equipment costs;
- Transportation; and
- Indigenous languages and First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies courses
  - These courses may only be negotiated as additional services and supports if that course is not already being offered at the school the student would be attending.

Agreements for additional services and supports must include the following information:

- The additional services and supports, and the amounts payable in respect of these services and supports.
- If a school board or First Nation Entity agrees to pay an additional amount for additional special education staffing, a term that indicates that the amount for such staffing per student, per school year, is the amount agreed upon under the agreement, which shall not exceed \$33,789 for the 2025-26 school year.
- Where a school board or First Nation Entity agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment costs and a deductible is agreed upon, a term that indicates the deductible is the amount agreed upon under the agreement, which shall not exceed \$800 per student, per school year. This may include multiple pieces of equipment for a student in a single school year.

### Overview of Additional Special Education Staffing

Additional special education staffing supports may be negotiated between the First Nation Entity and the school board to support students who have extraordinarily high needs and require additional staff to address their health and/or safety needs. In these cases, the First Nation Entity and school board may negotiate funding and enter into an agreement. The level of staff support will be determined between the parties.

<u>For students attending First Nation schools</u>, First Nation Entities operating these schools will need to submit the required documentation specified in <u>Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Staffing</u>, below, to the school board where the student is registered.

<u>For students attending a school of a school board</u>, the school board will need to submit the required documentation specified in <u>Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Staffing</u>, to the First Nation Entity from which they received written notice.

# Processes and Required Documentation for Negotiating Additional Special Education Staffing

Where a student is attending a First Nation school, First Nation Entities are responsible for providing the below documentation to the school board where the student is registered. Similarly, where a student is attending a school of a school board, school boards are responsible for providing the below documentation to the First Nation Entity from which written notice was received.

An agreement must be negotiated between the First Nation Entity and school board for these special education staffing costs. The responsibilities of First Nations and school boards are outlined in <a href="Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing">Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing</a>, included below.

Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing

Documentation	Requirements/Description
Individual Education Plan ( <i>IEP</i> )	<ul> <li>An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs that affect the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning.</li> <li>It is developed and signed by the school principal or equivalent position, usually with input from the parent(s), guardian(s) and the student if they are 16 years of age or older.</li> </ul>
	Where a student is attending a First Nation school, the First Nation Entity that operates the school and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP.  Where a student is attending a school of a school board,
	the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP.

#### Summary of Needs The Summary of Needs is a written description of the health and/or safety needs of the student, and how assigned staff work with the student to support the student's health and/or safety needs during a typical school day. Where a student is attending a First Nation school, the First Nation Entity and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing a Summary of Needs for school boards to assess. School boards should be flexible in assessing the Summary of Needs document. The Summary of Needs provided by the First Nation entity may look different from a school board's summary, reflecting the First Nation's delivery model. Where a student is attending a school of a school board, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Summary of Needs. Staff Support This document describes staff supporting the student Information throughout the school day, at the level of support agreed to by both parties, thus triggering the additional fee. The parties can determine the form and content of the document to be utilized to demonstrate staff support information. This document is intended to provide evidence of the level of staff support agreed to, which will generate additional funds. Where a student is attending a First Nation school, the First Nation Entity and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Staff Support Information. Where a student is attending a school of a school board, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Staff Support Information.

# Responsibilities of school boards and First Nation Entities where students are attending a First Nation school

The First Nation Entity is responsible for:

- Assessing whether a student requires additional special education staffing, and for informing the school board of these needs.
- Delivering the documentation in <u>Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation</u> for <u>Additional Special Education Staffing</u> to the school board where the student is registered.

The school board is responsible for:

- Determining the review process and, upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, conducting a review of documents for an additional special education staffing fee.
- Developing their own internal policies and procedures for reviewing applications for additional services and supports.
  - The ministry is available to provide information and answer questions that may help with additional special education staffing fees.
- Facilitating reimbursement request that school boards may submit to the Ministry of Education. School boards should ensure that documentation supporting an additional special education staffing fee paid to a First Nation is aligned with <u>Special education</u> <u>funding guidelines: Special Incidence Portion (SIP), 2022-23</u> and/or <u>Special education</u> <u>funding guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA), 2023-24</u>.

# Responsibilities of school boards and First Nations where students are attending a school of a school board

The school board is responsible for:

- Assessing whether a student requires additional special education staffing, and for informing the First Nation Entity from whom they received written notice.
- Delivering the documentation in <u>Table 3.1: Summary of Required Documentation</u> for <u>Additional Special Education Staffing</u> to the First Nation Entity that provided written notice.

The First Nation Entity is responsible for:

 Verifying the documentation received to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education staffing.

# School Board Processes for Reimbursement of Costs Associated with Special Education Staffing

The school board can request the funds paid to First Nation Entities for additional special education staffing be reimbursed by the ministry.

To be eligible for reimbursement, school boards must:

- Have an agreement in place with the First Nation Entity for special education staffing.
- Ensure that students meet the criteria set out in the <u>Special Education Funding</u> Guidelines: 2022-23 Special Incidence Portion (SIP).
  - Note: only the above-listed documentation is required to demonstrate student need for special education staffing in the REA context.
  - o The ministry will consider flexibility in documentation requirements for

reimbursement claims, provided the criteria in the <u>Special Education</u> <u>Funding Guidelines: 2022-23 Special Incidence Portion (SIP)</u> are met. The ministry will consider alternative documentation to the SIP Timetable as proof of staff support ratios if the criteria in the <u>Special Education Funding</u> <u>Guidelines: 2022-23 Special Incidence Portion (SIP)</u> are being met.

- Ensure the amount claimed for reimbursement is not greater than the maximum for the current school year. See the <u>Additional Services and</u> <u>Supports</u> section above for the current maximum.
- Submit their application in writing to the Director of Field Services Branch at the ministry, and must include, at minimum, the student's IEP, Summary of Needs and Staff Support Information.

School boards must maintain all documentation submitted for special education staff supports and the related agreements for the *current school year and the previous two school years*. All documentation used in support of a reimbursement claim for special education staff supports is subject to review and audit by the ministry.

#### **Overview of Special Equipment Costs**

Special education equipment costs may be negotiated between the First Nation Entity and the school board, where the need for specific equipment is recommended by a qualified professional.

Special education equipment must be utilized to accommodate students and is directly required for the student to access education.

# Processes and Required Documentation for Negotiating Special Education Equipment Costs

An agreement outlining additional special education equipment costs may be negotiated between the First Nation Entity and a school board to support students with extraordinarily high needs.

Eligible expenses include all costs associated with purchasing and/or leasing
equipment to meet students' special education needs as well as the related costs
including service contracts, shipping and training that are required to make
equipment operational and that are not already available at the school the student
is attending.

Providing the required documentation is the responsibility of the entity operating the school the student is attending (i.e., where a student is attending a First Nation school, First Nation Entities are responsible; and where a student is attending a school of a school board, school boards are responsible). First Nation Entities will provide the documentation to the school board where the student is registered; the school board will provide the documentation to the First Nation Entity from which written notice was received.

**Note:** It is best practice the special education equipment moves with the student. When the student transfers to another school (First Nation school or school of a school board)

the equipment should, in most instances, move with the student. Where special circumstances exist, such as the high cost of moving equipment, First Nation Entities and school boards should negotiate what will happen with the equipment.

The following (<u>Table 3.2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education</u> <u>Equipment Costs</u>) is the required documentation for special education equipment costs:

Table 3.2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs

Documentation	Requirements/Description
Individual Education Plan ( <u>IEP</u> )	<ul> <li>An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs that affect the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning.         <ul> <li>It is developed and signed by the school principal or equivalent position, usually with input from the parent(s), guardian(s) and the student if they are 16 years of age or older.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Where a student is attending a First Nation school, the First Nation Entity and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP.  Where a student is attending a school of a school board, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP.
Professional Assessment for required equipment	This document provides a description of the needs the equipment is meant to address and functional recommendation regarding the specific types of equipment the student requires to address their strengths and needs.  Where a student is attending a First Nation school, this should be completed by a qualified professional or in extenuating circumstances, by the school principal.  Where a student is attending a school of a school board, this must be completed by a qualified professional.
Proof of Purchase	<ul> <li>First Nation Entity or school board to provide to other party.</li> <li>This document is a copy of a paid invoice for the special equipment.</li> </ul>

# Responsibilities of school boards and First Nation Entities where students are attending a First Nation school

The First Nation Entity is responsible for:

- Assessing whether a student requires special education equipment, and for informing the school board of these needs.
- Providing the school board with the total estimated equipment cost prior to purchase.
- Providing the documentation in <u>Table 3.2: Summary of Required Documentation</u> for <u>Special Education Equipment Costs</u> to the school board where the student is registered, including the total estimated equipment cost prior to purchase.
- Providing the school board with the final invoice, after the submission of the required documentation is complete, an agreement is in place, and the equipment is purchased.

#### School boards are responsible for:

- Developing their own internal policy, procedures, and processes for reviewing requests and documentation for additional services and supports in addition to the base fee.
  - The ministry is available to provide information and answer questions that may help with additional special education equipment costs under REA.
- Ensuring documentation supporting an additional special education equipment claim paid to a First Nation Entity meets or aligns with the <u>Special education</u> <u>funding guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA), 2023-24</u> in order to facilitate the reimbursement request that school boards may submit to the Ministry of Education.

**Note:** If a school board or First Nation Entity agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment, and a deductible is agreed upon, the deductible shall not exceed \$800 per student per school year.

# Responsibilities of school boards and First Nations where students are attending a school of a school board

School boards are responsible for:

- Assessing whether a student requires special education equipment, and for informing the First Nation Entity from which they received written notice of these needs.
- Providing the First Nation Entity with the total estimated equipment cost prior to purchase.
- Providing the documentation, including invoices, set out in <u>Table 3.2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs</u> to the First Nation Entity.

 Providing the First Nation Entity with the final invoice, after the submission of the required documentation is complete, an agreement is in place, and the equipment is purchased.

First Nations Entities are responsible for:

- Verifying the documentation, upon receipt, to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education equipment costs.
  - The ministry is available to provide information and answer questions that may help with additional special education equipment costs under REA.

**Note:** If a school board or First Nation Entity agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment, and a deductible is agreed upon, the deductible shall not exceed \$800 per student per school year.

# School Board Processes for Reimbursement of Costs Associated with Special Education Equipment

The school board can request reimbursement from the ministry for funds paid to First Nation Entities for additional special education equipment costs.

To be eligible for reimbursement, school boards must:

- Have an agreement in place with the First Nation Entity for the special education equipment costs.
- Ensure students meet the criteria set out in the <u>Special Education Funding</u> Guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA), 2023-24.
  - Note: only the above-listed documentation is required to demonstrate student need for special education equipment costs in the REA context.
  - The ministry may consider flexibility in documentation requirements for reimbursement claims, provided the criteria in the <u>Special Education Funding</u> <u>Guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA), 2023-24</u> are met.
- Ensure that any deductible the First Nation Entity would pay does not exceed \$800.
  - This deductible applies per student, per school year. This may include multiple pieces of equipment for a student in a single school year.
- Submit applications for reimbursement in writing to the Director of Field Services Branch at the ministry, and must include, at minimum, the student's IEP, Professional Assessment for required equipment and Proof of Purchase (i.e., a copy of a paid invoice).

School boards must maintain all documentation submitted for special education equipment costs and the related agreements for the *current and previous two school years*. All documentation used in support of a claim for special education equipment is subject to review and audit by the ministry.

**Note:** To support stability and foster meaningful engagement with First Nations, the ministry is maintaining the current approach to Special Education Funding under the Reciprocal Education Approach for the 2025-26 school year, consistent with previous years. While the ministry released a modernized approach for the Special Equipment Allocation and an interim formula for the Special Incidence Portion for school boards, the ministry plans to engage with First Nations partners during the 2025-26 school year to collaboratively discuss modernization approaches for the REA.

#### **Transportation Amounts**

Amounts related to transportation are excluded from the base fee calculations. Additional amounts may be negotiated between First Nation Entities and school boards in addition to the base fee.

#### Indigenous Languages and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Courses

Allocations related to Indigenous languages and First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies courses are included in the base fee calculations. However, where a course is not offered at the school board, additional funding may be negotiated between First Nation Entities and school boards.

#### **B.** Late Payments and Arrears

This section provides information for First Nation Entities and school boards in the case of arrears.

This sub-section includes:

- √ School board obligations
- √ Steps for First Nation Entities to take in the event of late payment
- √ Overview of regulatory conditions regarding arrears

#### School Board Obligations

For students attending a First Nation school, school boards are required to:

- Flow base fee funding for each student to the First Nation Entity when eligibility criteria and other requirements are met (e.g., complete written notice has been received).
- Meet the payment timelines outlined in <u>Table 2.2: Summary of School Board</u> <u>Reporting and Payment Cycles</u>, provided the necessary documentation is received from First Nation Entities
- Communicate with First Nation Entities to notify them of any issues with documentation received as soon as possible.

• Be familiar with the reporting and payment schedule and maintain detailed records of documentation and payments related to REA students.

Processes have been established to ensure consistent and transparent timelines for all parties. The reporting schedule and payment timelines for school boards have been outlined in <u>Section 2, Table 2.2: Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Cycles.</u>

#### Steps for First Nation Entities to Take in the Event of Late Payment

If a scheduled payment has not been received within one week of the payment schedule timelines outlined in <u>Section 2</u>, <u>Table 2.2</u>: <u>Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Cycles</u>, First Nation Entities are encouraged to contact the school board directly to confirm the status of the payment.

School boards may also contact First Nation Entities during their reconciliation process to verify documentation requirements (i.e. names of eligible schools, written notice submissions).

First Nation Entities and/or schools may also contact the Indigenous Education Office of the ministry if there are payment issues that require ministry clarification.

#### **Overview of Regulatory Conditions Regarding Arrears**

School boards must admit all eligible students to a school of the board where complete written notice has been received by the board. For First Nation students that ordinarily reside on-reserve and are admitted by a board, the school board must charge the First Nation Entity the elementary or secondary base fee for each student.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school, school boards should not be in a position of arrears with the First Nation Entity.

**Note:** If the First Nation Entity is in arrears, school boards may not deny admission to eligible students.

O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies one option that a school board may consider if a First Nation Entity is in arrears. In these situations, the school board may reduce the amount it pays to a First Nation Entity for students attending that Entity's school by the amount that is owed by the same Entity to the school board for First Nation students attending a school of that board.

In calculating the amount related to arrears that the school board may deduct from the amount paid to the First Nation Entity, boards are required to comply with the following parameters:

• The amount will be limited to overdue/outstanding base fee amounts and

- would not apply to any fees owed in relation to additional negotiated services and supports;
- The amount will be limited to base fee amounts owed after September 1, 2019 (i.e., any fees charged or owed prior to September 1, 2019, could not be deducted from the amount paid to the First Nation Entity); and
- A school board may not apply interest to the amount owed by the First Nation Entity.

In the case where there is a disagreement regarding arrears, parties could also follow a dispute resolution process (refer to <u>Section 3, Part D: Dispute Resolution</u> for further information).

#### C. Existing Agreements

This section outlines the impact of the REA on existing agreements (ESAs and RESAs).

This section includes:

- √ Conditions around the continuation of existing agreements
- √ Transitions of current agreements to the REA

#### Conditions Around Continuation of Existing Agreements

Existing Agreements<sup>32</sup> may remain in effect until the agreement expires or the agreement is terminated.

- Existing ESAs are subject to the condition that the elementary or secondary base fee in the annual Fees regulation applies.
- Existing RESAs are subject to the condition that the elementary or secondary base fee that is paid to the First Nation Entity must be at least the elementary or secondary base fee set out in regulation.

Processes for identifying enrolment and payments outlined in <u>Section 1, Part C</u> and <u>Section 2, Part C</u>: Payment and Fees to First Nation Entities for Students, as well as <u>Table 1.3</u>: <u>Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines</u>, <u>Table 2.2</u>: <u>Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Cycles</u>, and <u>Table 2.3</u>: <u>Summary of Payment Cycle</u> should be followed, even if there is an Existing Agreement in place.

**Note:** First Nation Entities and/or schools are expected to report the current RESAs in the Student Enrolment List submitted to school boards and school boards will be expected to report the current ESAs in the Student Enrolment List submitted to First Nation Entities to support the invoicing process.

 School boards are required to include the RESAs reported by the First Nation Entity or school in the Student Information Report that is submitted to the ministry for funding purposes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Existing agreements are those Education Services Agreements or Reverse Education Services Agreements that were entered into prior to September 1, 2019, and have not expired or been terminated (Existing Agreement).

#### Transitions of Current Agreements to the REA

Where an existing ESA or RESA expires or is terminated, First Nation Entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person must initiate the REA process by delivering a written notice form to the school board (refer to Section 1, Part B and Section 2, Part B: Admission of Students Under the REA).

If the student is already registered at the school of the school board, the student does not need to re-register at the school.

#### D. Dispute Resolution

This section outlines possible approaches to resolving disputes that may arise under the REA.

This section includes:

- √ Approaches for resolving disputes under the REA
- √ Resources for resolving disputes under the REA
  - Human Rights and Equity Advisors

#### Resolving Disputes under the REA

Parties are encouraged to use mechanisms to resolve disputes that are mutually agreed upon and appropriate for their situation.

Parties may also consider using the resources noted below.

#### Resources for Resolving Disputes

Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs):

- HREAs are available for the 2025-26 school year for First Nation Entities and school boards to help support dispute resolution.
- HREAs that are funded by the ministry work in several school boards across Ontario. They are employees of school boards. The HREA acts in an impartial and neutral capacity to protect and advance human rights as they are articulated in the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and school board policies.
- On an as-needed basis and where feasible, the HREAs can support the resolution of disputes concerning additional fees for services and supports students receive under the REA. Working in a neutral capacity, HREAs could, for example:
- Help support the development or negotiation of an agreement for additional services and supports by encouraging dialogue between the First Nation Entity and the school board;
- Help facilitate discussions about the level of special education supports
  provided to students with special education needs by arranging, or being part
  of, mediation or other forms of dispute resolution; and

Arrange for a fact-finding or investigation process (e.g. establishing an
independent fact-finding team) if a dispute over facts cannot be resolved. After
an investigation, the fact-finder/investigator can generate a report that identifies
whether the provisions of the relevant legislation, regulation or policy have
been appropriately observed. The report could assist with further decisionmaking by the parties.

**Note**: Any dispute resolution costs, other than HREA, are the responsibility of the First Nation Entity and the school board.

A school board without an HREA may use the services of one employed at another school board, as long as permission is obtained from the board.

Where disputes are time-consuming or very complex, an HREA may suspend their support and the parties may be asked to engage the assistance of an outside arbitrator or other resource.

#### E. First Nation Trustees

Under the *Education Act*, and as outlined in O. Reg. 462/97 (First Nations Representation on Boards), students attending schools of a school board under an ESA or the REA may be entitled to representation by a First Nation trustee.

The thresholds for First Nation trustee appointments, outlined in O. Reg. 462/97, where the number of First Nation students attending schools of a school board under an ESA or the REA are as follows:

Enrolment	Number of First Nation Trustees
<ul> <li>Fewer than the lesser of:</li> <li>100 students;</li> <li>10% of the average daily enrolment (ADE) in the schools of the school board</li> </ul>	The First Nation Entity(ies) may name one person and the school board has discretion to appoint them to be a member of the board.
100 students <u>or</u> 10% of the ADE in the schools of the school board	The First Nation Entity(ies) may name one person and the school board shall appoint them to be a member of the board.
Exceeds 25% of the ADE in the schools of the school board	The First Nation Entity(ies) may name two persons and the school board shall appoint them to be members of the board.

For more information, school boards and First Nations should refer to the regulation noted above.

#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

#### **Another Authorized Person**

- a person who is authorized by the parent, guardian, as defined in the *Education Act* or, in some instances, the student, to provide the notice; or
- a person who facilitates the pupil or person's access to education; or
- a person from the pupil or person's extended family, as defined in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* as follows:
  - "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.

#### Conventional delivery model

Delivery of student instruction and timetables based on an annual (non-semestered) or semestered program running from September to June.

#### **Core Education Funding (Core Ed)**

The ministry provides most of the operating funding to Ontario's school boards through the annual Core Ed, also known as "the funding formula."

The funding formula is a collection of allocations described in detail in an annual regulation made under the *Education Act*. Funding entitlements for school boards can be generated on a per-pupil, per-school, or per-board basis depending on the structure of each allocation within the regulation for Core Ed.

The funding formula is based on various indicators to address cost drivers; that is, school boards receive funding based on what they need to serve all students at comparable levels across Ontario. Because cost structures will vary from school board to school board, the average funding per student varies across school boards.

#### **Education Services Agreement (ESA)**

An agreement between a First Nation Entity and a school board which was required prior to the introduction of the REA for First Nations students living on-reserve to attend a school of a school board.

Under the REA, ESAs entered into before September 1, 2019, may remain in effect until the agreement expires or is terminated. Any such ESA will be subject to the condition that the fee as set out in the annual Fees regulation applies.

#### Eligible school

A school which is listed in Table 1 of section 3 of O. Reg. 261/19 or has provided documentation to the ministry that demonstrates that it is:

- a. operated by a First Nation Entity (definition below); and
- does not charge tuition to students or their parents or guardians for elements of a classroom education that are required by, and generally common to, all students.

The ministry will be managing an active list of eligible schools <u>here</u>.

Eligible schools may be operated by First Nations or the federal government and may be located on- or off-reserve.

**Note:** First Nation school eligibility is only applicable where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school under the REA.

#### First Nation Entity (or Eligible Entity)

Entities which operate eligible schools which may participate in the REA.

These entities are:

- bands
- councils of bands
- the Crown in right of Canada
- education authorities that are authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the Crown in right of Canada to provide elementary or secondary education.

#### **First Nation School**

First Nation-operated and/or federally-operated schools.

#### "Home" School Board

The school board in which the student is currently registered, for the purposes of attending a First Nation school under the REA. Refer to the term "School Boards" in this glossary for a definition of a school board.

#### Other Pupil

A student who does not generate funding for the school board through the Core Ed.

Under the Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) part of the regulation for Core Ed, an "other pupil" is generally described as:

- A student who is registered under the *Indian Act* and who resides on reserve;
- An international student (e.g., in Canada on a study permit and is required to pay fees); or
- A student whose parent or guardian resides outside of Ontario (e.g., in other
  provinces such as Quebec or internationally) and the pupil was either not
  counted as a pupil of a board in the previous school year or is attending a school

solely through online or remote learning.

#### **Pupil of the Board**

A pupil who, under the Core Ed, is eligible to be enrolled in a school of a school board and generates funding through the Core Ed.

#### Quadmester delivery model

Where delivery of student courses and timetables is divided into terms which are each equivalent to one quarter of an annual school year (September to June), typically only secondary school programs.

#### Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)

The REA is a framework supported by the *Education Act* and regulations made under the Act. It is intended to improve access to education for First Nations students by eliminating the need for school boards and First Nations Entities to negotiate and enter into Education Service Agreements (ESAs) or Reverse Education Service Agreements (RESAs).

In accordance with requirements set out in the legislation, eligible students would be admitted to a school of a school board. Similarly, in the reverse context, school boards would be required to support eligible students to attend an eligible First Nation school, subject to the First Nation school's admission policies.

The REA sets out reciprocal elementary and secondary base fees which school boards will be required to pay or charge First Nation Entities. Specific processes are also set out in policy with respect to the negotiation of additional services and supports under the REA.

#### **Reverse Education Services Agreement (RESA)**

An agreement between a First Nation Entity and a school board which was required prior to the introduction of the REA for students who reside off-reserve to attend a First Nation-operated or federally-operated school and receive tuition funding from a school board.

Under the REA, RESAs entered into before September 1, 2019, may remain in effect until the agreement expires or is terminated. Any existing RESAs will be subject to the condition that the fee that is to be paid to the First Nation Entity must be at least the elementary or secondary base fee.

#### **School Boards**

Ontario's 72 district school boards operate the vast majority of the province's publicly-funded schools. In the context of this document, "school boards" also refers to ten school authorities, including four isolate board school authorities and six section 68 school authorities. The school boards administer the funding they receive from the province for their schools.

School boards are responsible for various aspects of education, including:

- determining the number, size and location of schools;
- building, equipping and furnishing schools;

- providing education programs that meet the needs of the school community, including needs for special education;
- managing funds allocated by the province to support all board activities, including education programs for elementary and secondary school students, and the building and maintenance of schools;
- enforcing the student attendance provisions of the Education Act; and
- ensuring schools comply with the Education Act, its regulations and any policies made under the Act.

#### School of a School Board

One or more physical school facility/facilities operated by the school board and located on a single campus, or a remote learning school.

A physical school is identified as:

- an elementary school when it consists of only elementary school facilities;
- a secondary school when it consists of only secondary school facilities;
- a combined elementary/secondary school when a school consists of both elementary and secondary school facilities (for example, Grades 7 and 8 with Grades 9 to 12).

#### **Student Enrolment List**

This is a list of students that both school boards and First Nation Entities will prepare as documentation showing that the students for whom written notice were received continue to be active students on the enrolment count dates.

#### **Student Information Report**

A reporting template which documents pupils of the board attending First Nation schools and is submitted to the ministry by school boards through the OnSIS application.

#### **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Funding**

Through the Complex Supports Allocation, funding for SIP is intended to support students with extraordinarily high needs who require more than two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs, and those of others at their school.

For 2025-26 REA, the process for negotiating additional special education staffing amounts will continue to reflect the 2022-23 claims-based approach consistent with the <u>Special Education Funding Guidelines: 2022-23 Special Incidence Portion (SIP)</u>. As in 2024-25 REA, the maximum claims-based amount in the 2025-26 REA will be updated annually to reflect benchmark updates.

#### **Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA)**

This funding from the ministry supports the purchase of equipment that may be required by students with special education needs. There are two components to this allocation for school boards: The SEA Formula component and the SEA Claims-Based component.

For 2025-26 REA, the ministry will continue with the SEA policy from 2023-24.

#### **Written Notice**

The required documentation to initiate the REA process.

Receipt by the school board of a complete written notice form initiates the school board's obligation to either admit the student to a school of the board or provide for the admission of the student to an eligible First Nation school. Written notice must be provided by:

- A First Nation Entity, i.e. a band; a council of a band; the Crown in right of Canada; or an education authority authorised by a band, council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada, and
- The student's parent, guardian, where the student is an adult (18 years of age or older) or has withdrawn from parental control, by the student themselves, or by Another Authorized Person, as described in Sections 1 and 2 of these Instructions.

# APPENDIX A: FUNDS/ALLOCATIONS INCLUDED IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY BASE FEES

The base fee is designed to estimate the average incremental cost of accommodating an additional student at any given school board. The base fees are determined using a standardized calculation that is derived from the same formulas as the Core Ed (with modifications, where necessary). This means the base fee uses most of the elements of the provincial funding formula (the Core Ed) that pertain to an additional student in the regular school day within any given school board.

The table below outlines the components of each Core Ed allocation for 2025-26 base fee calculations per Average Daily Enrolment (ADE). This table, which is also set out in the Enrolment section of the 2025-26 Technical Guide for School Boards, is based primarily on the 2025-26 Core Ed and is subject to change based on year-over-year changes to the Core Ed.

As noted in the table, some amounts are excluded from the base fee (e.g., Student Transportation Fund), and most components of the Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation are fully excluded from this base fee calculation. Base fee calculations are expected to be set out in the annual Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the School Board Fiscal Year regulation.

The base fee for isolate boards is calculated based on the School Authorities allocation and is not broken down into the components set out below but is generally reflective of how the base fee is calculated for district school boards.

FUND/ALLOCATION	DAY SCHOOL BASE FEE CALCULATIONS								
FUND/ALLOCATION	ELEMENTARY	SECONDARY							
CLASSROOM STAFFING FUND (CSF)									
CSF – Per Pupil	○ Kindergarten (JK/SK)	○ Secondary (Grades 9 to 12)							
Allocation	component	component							
	○ Primary (Grades 1-3)								
	component								
	<ul> <li>Junior/Intermediate</li> </ul>								
	(Grades 4 to 8)								
	component								
Language	Only English-language	Only English-language school							
Classroom Staffing	school boards:	boards:							
Allocation	○ CSF – ESL/ELD	○ CSF – ESL/ELD component							
	component Recent	Recent Immigrant amount based							
	Immigrant amount based	on secondary weighted							
	on elementary weighted	enrolment and DELL amount							
	enrolment and DELL	secondary portion**							

amount elementary portion\*

 CSF – FSL component elementary total

# Only French-language school boards:

- CSF PANA component based on elementary weighted enrolment.
- CSF FFL component elementary total
- CSF ALF component elementary per pupil and school amounts, and elementary portion of the board amount (excluding 1.0 teacher salary and benefits benchmark)\*

#### Local Circumstances Staffing Allocation<sup>33</sup>

## Q&E Teachers component:

- Kindergarten (JK/SK) total
- Primary (Grades 1-3) total
- Junior/Intermediate (Grades 4 to 8) total
- Q&E ECEs component
- Outlying Schools Staffing component elementary total
- CSF Remote and Rural component elementary portion\*
- CSF Supports for Students component elementary portion\*
- CSF Maternity Leave component elementary portion\*
- CSF Benefits Trusts component elementary portion\*
- NTIP component divided by total eligible teachers

 CSF – FSL component secondary total

# Only French-language school boards:

- CSF PANA component based on secondary weighted enrolment
- CSF FFL component secondary total
- CSF ALF component
   secondary per pupil amount,
   secondary/combined school
   amount, secondary/combined
   school size amount, and
   secondary/combined portion of
   the board amount (excluding 1.0
   teacher salary and benefits
   benchmark)\* plus 1.0 teacher
   salary and benefits benchmark

#### O Q&E Teachers component:

- Secondary (Grades 9 to 12) total
- Outlying Schools Staffing component secondary total
- CSF Remote and Rural component secondary portion\*\*
- CSF Supports for Students component secondary portion\*\*
- CSF Maternity Leave component secondary portion\*\*
- CSF Benefits Trusts
   component secondary portion\*\*
- NTIP component divided by total eligible teachers and multiplied by eligible secondary teachers.
- Teacher Learning and Innovation component secondary portion\*\*
- Retirement Gratuities
   component amount for
   employees primary involved in
   the provision of education to
   secondary pupils

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Through the Core Ed, the Outlying Schools Staffing component for French-language boards is adjusted by any funding generated through the Secondary and Combined Schools Enrolment Based ALF Amount of the CSF – ALF Component

	1			
		and multiplied by eligible		
		elementary teachers		
	0	Teacher Learning and		
		Innovation component		
		elementary portion*		
	0	Retirement Gratuities		
		component amount for		
		employees primarily		
		involved in the provision of		
		education to elementary		
		pupils		
Indigenous	0	Indigenous Languages	0	First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
Education		component elementary		Studies component
Classroom Staffing		amount	0	Indigenous Languages
Allocation <sup>34</sup>				component secondary amount
Supplemental	0	CSF – Demographic	0	<b>J</b> 1
Staffing Allocation –		Needs component		component secondary portion**
Literacy, Numeracy		elementary portion*	0	
and Other Programs	0	CSF – Student Success,		7 to 12 component demographic
		Grade 7 to 12		secondary portion** and
		component demographic		secondary enrolment and
		amount elementary		dispersion amounts
		portion* and elementary	0	CSF – Experiential Learning
		enrolment and dispersion		component secondary portion**
		amounts	0	CSF – Outdoor Education
	0	Grade 7 and 8 Student		component secondary portion**
		Success and Literacy		
		and Numeracy		
		component		
	0	CSF – Experiential		
		Learning component		
		elementary portion*		
	0	CSF – Outdoor		
		Education component		
		elementary portion*		D (I DE)
LDE Day Day "		LEARNING RESOURCES F		
LRF – Per Pupil	0	Kindergarten (JK/SK)	0	Secondary (Grades 9 to 12)
Allocation		component		component
	0	Primary (Grades 1-3)		
		component		
	0	Junior/Intermediate		
		(Grades 4 to 8)		
		component		
	0	Intermediate (Grades 7		
		to 8) Supplementary		
		component		

<sup>34</sup> Under the REA, additional funding may be negotiated separately (e.g., to support additional Indigenous languages or First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies courses).

# Language Supports and Local Circumstances Allocation

- Q&E Library and Guidance component elementary total
- Supplementary Library Staffing component
- LRF Remote and Rural component elementary portion\*
- LRF Supports for Students component elementary portion\*
- Geographic Top-ups component elementary portion\*
- Curriculum component elementary portion\*
- LRF Benefits Trusts component elementary portion\*
- LRF Maternity Leave,
   Sick Leave and Non Union component
   elementary portion\*

# Only English-language school boards:

- LRF ESL/ELD component Recent Immigrant amount based on elementary weighted enrolment and DELL amount elementary portion\*\*
- LRF FSL component
   Per Pupil amount
   elementary total and
   Areas of Intervention
   amount elementary
   portion\*

# Only French-language school boards:

- LRF PANA component based on elementary weighted enrolment.
- LRF FFL component elementary total (excluding the start-up funding for new Frenchlanguage elementary schools)

- Q&E Library and Guidance component secondary total
- LRF Remote and Rural component secondary portion\*\*
- LRF Supports for Students component secondary portion\*\*
- Geographic Top-ups component secondary portion\*\*
- Curriculum component secondary portion\*\*
- LRF Benefits Trusts
   component secondary portion\*\*
- LRF Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Non-Union component secondary portion\*\*

# Only English-language school boards:

- LRF ESL/ELD component
   Recent Immigrant amount based
   on weighted enrolment and DELL
   amount secondary portion\*\*
- LRF FSL component Per Pupil amount secondary total and Areas of Intervention amount secondary portion\*\*

## Only French-language school boards:

- LRF PANA component based on secondary weighted enrolment.
- LRF FFL component secondary total
- LRF ALF component secondary per pupil amount, secondary/combined school amount, and secondary/combined portion\*\* of the board amount

Indigonous	LRF – ALF component elementary per pupil and school amounts, and elementary portion* of the board amount
Indigenous Education Supports Allocation <sup>35</sup>	component elementary portion*  Indigenous Education Lead component  secondary portion**  Indigenous Education Lead component secondary portion**
Mental Health and Wellness Allocation	<ul> <li>Student Mental Health component elementary portion* of: Student mental health base and per pupil amounts; Resilience and mental well-being base and per-pupil amounts; and Evidence-based programs &amp; resources base and per pupil amounts (excludes data and information collection amount)</li> <li>Mental Health Workers Staff component Component MHW data and information collection amount and secondary portion** of Student mental health base and per pupil amounts; Resilience and mental well-being base and per-pupil amounts; and Evidence-based programs &amp; resources base and per pupil amounts</li> <li>Mental Health Leaders component secondary portion**</li> </ul>
Student Safety and Well-Being Allocation	<ul> <li>Well-Being and Positive School Climates component elementary portion*</li> <li>Safe and Accepting Schools component elementary portion*</li> <li>Well-Being and Positive School Climates component secondary portion**</li> <li>Safe and Accepting Schools component secondary portion**</li> <li>Urban and Priority High Schools component</li> </ul>
Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation	<ul> <li>Tutoring component elementary portion*</li> <li>Tutoring component portion*</li> <li>Tutoring component secondary portion**</li> </ul>
School Management Allocation	<ul> <li>School Management component calculated for elementary schools and the elementary portion of combined schools*</li> <li>Remote Learning Administration component elementary portion*</li> <li>School Management component calculated for secondary schools and the secondary portion of combined schools**</li> <li>Remote Learning Administration component secondary portion*</li> </ul>

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 35}$  Under the REA, additional funding may be negotiated separately.

	0	Principal and Vice	0	Principal and Vice Principal	
		Principal Salary Grid	Salary Grid amount seconda		
		amount elementary		portion**	
		portion*	<ul> <li>Principal and Vice Principal Allowances amount calculat</li> </ul>		
	0	Principal and Vice			
		Principal Allowances		for secondary and combined	
		amount calculated for		schools.	
		elementary schools.	0	ISP for Principals and Vice	
	0	ISP for Principals and		Principals component	
		Vice Principals		secondary portion**	
		component elementary		perment	
		portion*			
Differentiated	0		0	Program Leadership	
Supports Allocation		component elementary		component secondary portion**	
- Demographic,		portion*	0	LRF – Demographic Needs	
Socioeconomic and	0	LRF – Demographic		component secondary portion**	
Other Indicators		Needs component	0		
		elementary portion*		7 to 12 component - Territorial	
		LRF - Student Success,		Student Program amount	
		Grade 7 to 12		secondary portion**	
		component - Territorial		(transportation amounts	
		Student Program amount		excluded)	
			_	,	
		elementary portion*		SHSM component	
		(transportation amounts	0	LRF – Experiential Learning	
		excluded)		component secondary portion**	
	0	LRF – Experiential		excluding transportation amount.	
		Learning component	0	LRF – Outdoor Education	
		elementary portion*		component secondary portion**	
		excluding transportation			
		amount.			
	0	LRF – Outdoor			
		Education component			
	<u> </u>	elementary portion*	<u> </u>		
		SPECIAL EDUCATION FUI			
SEF - Per Pupil	0	JK to Grade 3 total	0	Secondary (Grades 9 to 12) total	
Allocation	0	Grades 4 to 8 total			
Differentiated Needs	0	Measures of Variability	0	Measures of Variability	
Allocation		component MOV amount		component MOV amount	
		elementary portion*		secondary portion** (excludes	
		(excludes Northern		Northern Supports and Integrated	
		Supports and Integrated		Supports amounts)	
		Supports amounts)	0	Special Education Statistical	
	0	Special Education		Prediction Model component	
		Statistical Prediction		secondary portion**	
		Model component		•	
		elementary portion*			
	1	/ I			

<sup>36</sup> Does not include Northern Adjustment, SIP component, ECPP component, CTEP component and SEA Claims Based components. Under the REA, additional funding may be negotiated separately for claims under the SIP and SEA components.

	<ul> <li>Collaboration and Integration Base component elementary portion*</li> <li>Multi-Disciplinary Supports component elementary portion*</li> <li>Local Special Education Priorities component elementary portion*</li> <li>Early Math Intervention component elementary portion*</li> <li>Professional Assessments component elementary portion*</li> <li>Professional Assessments component elementary portion*</li> </ul>						
Complex Supports Allocation	<ul> <li>Behaviour Expertise Amount</li> <li>Amount component elementary portion*</li> <li>Behaviour Expertise Amount component secondary portion**</li> </ul>						
Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA)	<ul> <li>SEA Formula</li> <li>component based on</li> <li>2023-24 SEA Per-Pupil</li> <li>amount elementary</li> <li>portion *</li> <li>SEA Formula component based</li> <li>on 2023-24 SEA Per-Pupil</li> <li>amount secondary portion**</li> </ul>						
	School Facilities Fund (SFF)						
School Operations Allocation <sup>37</sup>	<ul> <li>Base School Operations component Day School Base School Operations amount elementary total</li> <li>Enhanced Top-up for School Operations amount elementary total</li> <li>Enhanced Top-up for School Operations component elementary total</li> <li>SFF – Supports for Students component elementary portion*</li> <li>SFF – Benefits Trust component elementary portion*</li> </ul>						
School Renewal Allocation	Excluded Excluded						
Rural and Northern Education Allocation	Elementary portion*     Secondary portion**						
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND (STF)							

Excludes Community Use of Schools, Capital Lease on School Authority Amalgamation, ECPP and CTEP Operations, and Renewal Software Licensing Fee components as well as amounts related to students funded primarily through the Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation

Tueseesestetiese	Francis	Freducia			
Transportation Services Allocation	Excluded	Excluded			
	Francis	Fredridad			
School Bus Rider	Excluded	Excluded			
Safety Training					
Allocation					
Transportation to	Excluded	Excluded			
Provincial or					
Demonstration					
Schools Allocation					
	HOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATI				
Trustees and Parent	<ul> <li>Trustee component</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Trustee component secondary</li> </ul>			
Engagement	elementary portion*	portion**			
Allocation	<ul> <li>Parent Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Student Trustee component</li> </ul>			
	component elementary	<ul> <li>Parent Engagement</li> </ul>			
	portion*	component secondary portion**			
	•				
Board-Based	<ul> <li>Executive Staffing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Executive Staffing component</li> </ul>			
Staffing Allocation	component elementary	secondary portion**			
	portion*	<ul> <li>Non-Executive Staffing</li> </ul>			
	○ Non-Executive Staffing	component secondary portion**			
	component elementary	<ul> <li>SBAF – Benefits Trusts</li> </ul>			
	portion*	component secondary portion**			
	○ SBAF – Benefits Trusts	<ul> <li>Non-Staff component</li> </ul>			
	component elementary	secondary portion**			
	portion*	Scottally portion			
	Non-Staff component				
	elementary portion*				
Central Employer	Excluded	Excluded			
Bargaining Agency	Exolució	Exoladod			
Fees Allocation					
Data Management	○ Managing Information	Managing Information for			
and Audit	for Student Achievement	Student Achievement (MISA)			
Allocation <sup>38</sup>	(MISA) component	component secondary portion**			
Allocation	elementary portion*	Demographic Data Gathering			
	Demographic Data	component secondary portion**			
	Gathering component				
		Capital Planning Capacity			
	elementary portion*	component secondary portion**			
	Capital Planning	Non-Instructional Spaces			
	Capacity component	component secondary portion**			
	elementary portion*				
	Non-Instructional				
	Spaces component				
	elementary portion*				
Declining Enrolment	○ <b>DEA</b> elementary portion*	<ul> <li>DEA secondary portion*</li> </ul>			
Adjustment					
Allocation					

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 38}$  Excludes RIAT, External Audit, and Reporting Entity components.

\*Total allocation(s) divided by school board day-school enrolment and multiplied by elementary enrolment.

\*\*Total allocation(s) divided by school board day-school enrolment and multiplied by secondary enrolment.

### **APPENDIX B: WRITTEN NOTICE TEMPLATES**



#### Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend an Eligible First Nation School

This form may be used by entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person (specified in section 3 of the form) to provide notice to a school board as required under section 185 of the *Education Act* to initiate the process for a student to attend a First Nation school under the Reciprocal Education Approach.

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory for entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person.

	iiii aii asterisk (	) are ma	andatory for en	แแษร สกัน	parents, guardians, sti	udents of Another Autr	1011ZEU FEISOII.
1. Notice	of the En	tity					
Information a	bout the En	tity					
This notice is bei	ng initiated by *						
A band The Crown in	A council		_		uthority that is authoriz uthority that is authoriz	•	
Legal Name of E	ntity *						
Contact Pers	on's Details						
Last Name *					First Name *		
Title *							
Address							
Unit Number	Street Number	er*	Street Name *				РО Вох
City/Town *					Province * Postal Code		
Telephone Number * Fax Number ext.				1	Email Address		
nformation al	oout the Stu	dent	ı				
Last Name *					First Name *		
Date of Birth (yyyy/n	mm/dd) *	Provincia	al OEN # (if availab	ole)			
Name of First Nation	n school student int	ends to at	tend *			Intended admission date	(yyyy/mm/dd) *
Student's credit of	count or most re	ecent gra	ade completed				
Address of s	chool stude	nt inte	nds to atten	ıd			
Unit Number	Street Number	er*	Street Name *				РО Вох
City/Town *	I		1	Province *			Postal Code *
Special Educ	ation Suppo	orts Ne	eded *				
Behaviour	Intellect		Communic	cation	Physical	Multiple	

Other	Not Applicable						
Does the student ha ☐ Yes ☐ No	ve an IEP (Individual	l Education Pla	ın)? *				
Is this student recei	ving special education	on programs ar	nd/or servi	ce? *			
Yes No							
Ontario Studen	t Record						
The entity provide student intends	ding this notice reque to attend.	ests that the sc	hool board	transfer the stud	ent's attendand	ce record to t	he school the
	ding this notice reque ent intends to attend.		hool board	transfer the stud	ent's Ontario S	tudent Reco	rd (OSR) to the
moves to another so educational progress	nent record for each hool in the province. s and other relevant ain important education dent's learning.	Transfer of the documentation	e OSR is ir required f	nportant in order or the successful	for the receivin educational pr	g school to tr ogress of the	ack the student's student. The
Additional Notes							
2. Signature	)						
	Name of Official of Entity *  Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *						
Signature of Official	(I have authority to b	oind the above	entity) *				
3. Notice of	the Parent,	Guardia	n, Stud	dent or An	other Au	thorized	d Person
Student's Last Name *	<u> </u>		,	Student's First Name			-
This notice is being i	initiated by *						
Parent of the stu	udent 🔲 Guardiar	n of the student	39 <b>The</b>	e student if they a	re at least 18 y	ears of age	
The student, if 1	6 or 17 years of age	and has withd	rawn from	parental control	An autho	orized proxy <sup>4</sup>	0
A person who fa	cilitates the student's	s access to ed	ucation <sup>41</sup>	A p	erson from the	student's ex	tended family <sup>42</sup>
Name of parent, gua	ırdian, student or And	other Authorize	ed Person				
Address of stud	lent						
Unit Number	Street Number *	Street Name *					РО Вох
City/Town *			Province *				Postal Code *

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Guardian 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> An adult who is authorized to provide notice by a parent, guardian or a student who is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control or at least 18 years of age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> An adult which may include, but is not limited to, a school principal, education director or manager and First Nation school staff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup>An adult from the pupil or person's extended family, as defined in the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017.

# Address of parent, guardian or another authorized person Same as address of student Unit Number | Street Number \* | Street Name \* | PO Box City/Town \* | Province \* | Postal Code \* Phone number of parent, guardian, student or Another Authorized Person \* Name of First Nation school student intends to attend \* | Intended admission date (yyyy/mm/dd) \*

#### 4. Consent and Notice of Collection of Personal Information

By signing below, you are providing consent to the

Insert the name of school board \*

for the indirect collection of personal information from

Insert the name of the: band; council of a band; education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band; education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada; or the Crown in Right of Canada \*

The school board collects the information in this form directly from you and will indirectly collect the personal information identified in the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending a School of a School Board form or the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending an Eligible School form, as the case may be, from the entity named above. This includes:

- Student's name, date of birth, and Ontario Education Number
- Student's address and contact information
- Parent, guardian, or another authorized person's name, address, and contact information
- Student's intended admission date and school
- Student's eligibility for the Reciprocal Education Approach (i.e. under sections 185 and 188 of the Education Act)
- Student's credit count or grade
- Student's special education supports needed, if applicable, including exceptionalities and Individual Education Plan
- Student's attendance records and Ontario Student Record

This personal information is being collected in accordance with subsection 28(2) of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and pursuant to sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*.

The school board will use this personal information for the purposes of administering the Reciprocal Education Approach, including:

- Determining eligibility to attend a First Nation school or school of a school board under sections 185 or 188 of the *Education Act*, as the case may be.
- Providing funding to an entity that operates a First Nation school.
- Determining the fees that would be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.
- Processing payments to be paid to an entity operating a First Nation school or for payments to be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.

The school board may also disclose this personal information to the Ministry of Education, as required under paragraph 27.1 of subsection 8(1) or subsection 8.1(5) of the *Education Act*.

Officer of Employ	ee of the school	Doard	a who can answe	er the inar	vidual's question	s about the con	ection	
Title								
Business add	lress							
Unit Number	Street Num	ber	Street Name					РО Вох
City/Town				Province				Postal Code
Business Telephone	Number	Fax Nu	mber		Email Address			
5. Signature								
I have read and u section, above, a personal informat	nd my signature	e attest	s to my consent	to the ind	irect collection, u			ersonal Information oil or student's
Signature of Parent/0	Guardian/ Student/ <i>i</i>	Another <i>i</i>	Authorized Person <sup>3</sup>	•			Date (yyyy/mr	n/dd) *
Signature of Student	43*						Date (yyyy/mr	n/dd) *

To be completed by the school board:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> If the student is 16 or 17 years of age, the consent of both the parent/guardian and the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of personal information. If the student is 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control, or if the student is 18 years of age or older, the consent of the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of the student's personal information.



# Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend a School of a School Board

This form may be used by entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person (specified in section 3 of this form) to provide notice to a school board as required under section 188 of the *Education Act* to initiate the process for a student to attend a school of a school board under the Reciprocal Education Approach.

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory for entities and parents, guardians, students or Another Authorized Person.

- Islas mantou with an			- Introduction p		Talano, otaconto oi 7 tilotiloi 7 tal		
1. Notice of t	he Entity						
Information about	t the Entity						
This notice is being init	tiated by *						
A band	A council of a band	d An e	ducation at	uthority that	is authorized by a band or coun	cil of a band	
The Crown in right	of Canada	An e	ducation au	uthority that	is authorized by the Crown in Ri	ght of Canada	
Legal Name of Entity *							
Contact Person's	Details						
Last Name *				First Name	*		
Title *							
Address							
Unit Number Si	treet Number *	Street Name *				РО Вох	
City/Town *			Province *			Postal Code *	
Telephone Number *	ext.	Fax Number		Email Address		1	
Information abou	t the Student						
Last Name *				First Name *			
Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd)	* Provincia	l OEN # (if availab	ble)				
Student Eligibility	y *						
					ght of Canada, or a band, a cour by the Crown in right of Canada.		
The above-named	pupil ordinarily re	sides on a rese	erve within	the meaning	g of the <i>Indian Act</i> (Canada).		
Name of school of a s	chool board stude	nt intends to a	attend *		Intended admission date of student (yyyy/mm/dd		
Student's credit count	or most recent gra	de completed					

Special Education	on Supports Nee	eded *			
Behaviour	Intellectual	Communication	Physical	Multiple	
Other	Not Applicable				
Does the student ha	ave an IEP (Individua	l Education Plan)? *			
Yes No					
Is this student rece	iving special educati	on programs and/or s	service? *		
Yes No					
Ontario Studer	nt Record				
The entity provi	iding this notice agre	es to transfer the stud	dent's attendance reco	ord to the school the stude	ent intends to
The entity provi	_	es to transfer the stud	dent's Ontario Student	Record (OSR) to the sch	ool the student
moves to another so educational progres	chool in the province is and other relevant aportant educational	. Transfer of the OSR documentation requi	t is important in order red for the successful	nd accompanies the stude for the receiving school to educational progress of the and custody-related infor	track the student's ne student. The OSR
2. Signatur	e				
Name of Official of Entit				Date (yyyy/n	nm/dd) *
Signature of Official (I ha	ave authority to bind the al	oove entity) *			
3. Notice of	f the Parent.	Guardian, S	tudent or An	other Authorize	ed Person
Student's Last Name *	,	,	Student's First Name		
This notice is being	initiated by *				
Parent of the st	udent Guardia	n <sup>44</sup> of the student	The student if they a	re at least 18 years of age	9
☐ The student, if	16 or 17 years of age	and has withdrawn	from parental control	An authorized proxy	y <sup>45</sup>
A person who family <sup>47</sup>	acilitates the student	's access to educatio	n <sup>46</sup> A p	person from the pupil or p	erson's extended
Name of parent, gu	ardian, Another Auth	orized Person or stud	dent		
Address of stud	dent				
Unit Number	Street Number *	Street Name *			PO Box
City/Town/Reserve Nan	ne *	Provin	nce *		Postal Code *

#### Address of parent, guardian or Another Authorized Person

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Guardian 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> An adult who is authorized to provide notice by a person who is authorized to provide notice by a parent, guardian or a student who is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control or at least 18 years of age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> An adult which may include, but is not limited to, a school principal, education director or manager and First Nation school staff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> An adult from the pupil or person's extended family, as defined in the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017.

Same as addre	es of student							
Unit Number	Street Number *	Street Name *			РО Вох			
City/Town/Reserve Nan	ne *		Province *	Postal Code *				
Phone number of paren Person *	t, guardian, student or Ar	nother Authorized	Email address of parent, guardian, student or Another Authorized Person					
Name of school of the s	tudent intends to attend *	r		yyyy/mm/dd) *				
4. Consent	and Notice	of Collec	tion of Personal Inf	ormation				
By signing below, y	ou are providing con	sent to the						
			Insert the name of scho	ool board *				

Insert the name of the: band; council of a band; education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band; education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada; or the Crown in Right of Canada \*

The school board collects the information in this form directly from you and will indirectly collect the personal information identified in the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending a School of a School Board form or the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending an Eligible School form, as the case may be, from the entity named above. This includes:

- Student's name, date of birth, and Ontario Education Number
- Student's address and contact information
- Parent, guardian or Another Authorized Person's name, address, and contact information
- Student's intended admission date and school

for the indirect collection of personal information from

- Student's eligibility for the Reciprocal Education Approach (i.e. under sections 185 and 188 of the Education Act)
- · Student's credit count or grade
- Student's special education supports needed, if applicable, including exceptionalities and Individual Education Plan
- Student's attendance records and Ontario Student Record

This personal information is being collected in accordance with subsection 28(2) of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and pursuant to sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*.

The school board will use this personal information for the purposes of administering the Reciprocal Education Approach, including:

- Determining eligibility to attend a First Nation school or school of a school board under sections 185 or 188 of the *Education Act*, as the case may be.
- Providing funding to an entity that operates a First Nation school.
- Determining the fees that would be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.
- Processing payments to be paid to an entity operating a First Nation school or for payments to be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.

The school board may also disclose this personal information to the Ministry of Education, as required under paragraph 27.1 of subsection 8(1) or subsection 8.1(5) of the *Education Act*.

To be completed by the school board:

Officer or Employee of the school board who can answer the individual's questions about the collection

Title

Business add	dress								
Unit Number	Street Numb	Street Number Street Name					РО Вох		
City/Town				Province		Postal Code			
Business Telephone Number Fax Number				Email Address					
					l				
5. Signati	ure								
section, above, a	and my signatur	e attests	to my consent	t to the ind	ng the Consent and N irect collection, use a ice is complete and to	and disclosu			
Signature of Parent	/Guardian/ Student	/Another A	uthorized Person <sup>3</sup>	*	·		Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *		
Signature of Studen	t <sup>48</sup> *				Date (yyyy/mm	n/dd) *			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> If the student is 16 or 17 years of age, the consent of both the parent/guardian and the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of personal information. If the student is 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control, or if the student is 18 years of age or older, the consent of the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of the student's personal information.

APPENDIX C: RECIPROCAL EDUCATION APPROACH (REA) – STUDENT INFORMATION REPORT

													Secti	on C: Student	Status at E	ach						
		Sectio	n A: Stud	ent Inform	ation	Section B: Other Information (as indicated on Written Notice Form or in RESA)							Payment			Section	D: Agreen	nents for Add	ditional S	ervices		
														er 31, 2025,	March 3							
L							1	T	T	1				nt date	count	1						
	#	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	E1
	.   `	OEN xxxxxxx xx) no dashes	Last Name ( <b>Upper</b> <b>case)</b>	First Name (Upper case)	Date of Birth (YYYY/M M/DD)	Grade Level (Elementary/ Secondary)	Name of First Nation School (Upper case)	School Semester Type (Semestered / Non-semestered <b>OR</b> Quadmestered)	Name of Eligible Entity ( <b>Upper</b> case)	Include the later of: Date that student intends to attend eligible school OR Date First Nation school confirms to admit student (YYYY/MM/D D)	Board confirmation that: (a) completed and valid Written Notice (WN) received; (b) Incomplete or Missing WN received OR (c) Effective RESA in place (1. WN- received, 2. WN- incomplete/ missing, 3. RESA)	Board confirms student eligibility and registration as a Pupil of the Board (Y/N)	October Active/ Inactive (Active/ Inactive)	October Full- time equivalency (1.0 or lower)	March Active/ Inactive (Active/ Inactive)	March Full- time equival ency (1.0 or lower)	Effective Date of Agreement (YYYY/MM/ DD)	SIP Claim Eligible (Y/N)	Special Education Staffing Support - <b>Amount</b> <b>Paid</b> (CAD) (####.##)	SEA Claim Eligible (Y/N)	Special Education Equipment Amount - Amount Paid (CAD) (####.##)	Comments
	1																					
	2																					
	3																					
Ī	4																					
Ī	5																					

## APPENDIX D - RECIPROCAL EDUCATION APPROACH (REA) – STUDENT ENROLMENT LIST

#### 1. INSTRUCTIONS

This information is being provided to

There are 4 sections in this template:

- Section A Contact Information for Receiving Organization (Sheet 1)
  - Please provide relevant contact information for the First Nation entity or school board receiving the student list.
- Section B Payee Contact and Payment Information (Sheet 1)
  - Please provide relevant contact and payment information for the First Nation entity or school board providing the student list.
- Section C Attestation (Sheet 1)
  - Attestation by the First Nation entity or school board confirming that the information provided accurately reflects that students are active pupils as at the count date (October 31 or March 31).
- Section D Student List (Sheet 2)
  - This section includes required fields for individual student information as outlined in the REA Instructions for First Nations and school boards.

Insert Name of Receiving Organization - First Nation entity or School Board

Section A: Contact Information for Receiving Organization

Contact Name									
Contact Position									
0									
Contact Email									
Contact Phone									
Section B: Payee Contact and Payment information									
Name of Organization (First Nation Entity or School Board)									
Contact Information									
Contact Name									
Contact Position									
Contact Email									
Contact Phone									
Contact Phone									
Payment Information									
Name of Payee									
Account Number									
Name of Bank									
Bank/Branch Address									
	Section C: Attestation								
Attention: Data must	be entered in Section D: Student List (sheet 2) prior to attesting								
☐ By checking off this box, finsert name and title of signato students' active status as at the count date (October 31 or March 31									

# APPENDIX D: RECIPROCAL EDUCATION APPROACH (REA) – STUDENT ENROLMENT LIST SAMPLE FORM

## **Section D: Student List**

			Student Status at each count date								
			Octob	er 31, 2025	March	March 31, 2026					
#.	Ontario Education Number (OEN) (xxxxxxxxx) no dashes	Student's Last Name	Student's Given Name(s)	Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)	Grade Level (Elementary / Secondary)	Name of School Student is Attending	School Semester Type (Semestered / Non-semestered <b>OR</b> Quadmestered)	Active/ Inactive	Full-time/Part- time* (1.0 or lower)  *see REA Instructions for details on FTE calculation	Active/ Inactive	Full- time/Part- time* (1.0 or lower)  *see REA Instructions for details on FTE calculation
1											
2											
3											
4											