



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

August 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: **Education Service and Reverse Tuition Agreements with Indigenous Students:
Communications Documents**

Further to my memorandum of July 29, 2019, the Ministry of Education has just distributed to OCSTA communications documents that will assist boards in explaining the detail requirements related to Education Service and Reverse Tuition Agreements for students and parents.

Please see the attached Memorandum from Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Finance and Labour Division and the accompanying communications materials.

If you have any questions, or for further information, please contact Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments

Ministry of Education

Education Labour and
Finance Division
12th Floor
315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

Division des relations de travail et du
financement en matière d'éducation
12^e étage
315, rue Front Street West,
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

2019: SB11

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

From: Andrew Davis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour and Finance Division

Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

Date: August 28, 2019

Subject The Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Parent,
Guardian and Student Fact Sheet

As a follow up to B18 – “The Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)”, we are pleased to share the REA Parent, Guardian and Student Fact Sheet.

The Fact Sheet provides information for parents, guardians and students to support their access to REA. We encourage all staff responsible for enrolment, particularly school principals and administrators, to review the Fact Sheet prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year.

The written notice forms, described in B18 and the Fact Sheet, is now accessible on the ministry's website:

- [3064: Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend an Eligible First Nation School](#)
- [3065: Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend a School of a School Board](#)

In the coming weeks, the ministry will provide school boards and First Nation partners with detailed technical instructions to support the implementation of the REA. The

instructions will contain information on REA requirements such as school eligibility, registration and enrolment, student tracking, and payment processes.

Some of the elements and proposals set out in this document can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act*. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this document should be considered to be subject to such regulations, if and when made.

If you require further information, please contact:

Subject	Contact	Email
General	Taunya Paquette	Taunya.Paquette@ontario.ca
Finance	Paul Duffy	Paul.Duffy@ontario.ca

Original signed by

Andrew Davis
Assistant Deputy Minister
Education Labour and Finance Division

Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister
Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

Attachments: Appendix A – The REA Parent, Guardian, and Student Fact Sheet

cc: Council of Ontario Directors of Education

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

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

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

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

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

Important information needed to participate in the REA

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

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

The written notice form must be completed by:

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

and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The student is now eligible to attend the school.

Student wishing to attend a First Nation-operated school

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

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

Step 2: Register with a local board school.

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

The student is now eligible to attend the school.

Helpful Information:

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