

June 25, 2021

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
First Nation Education Partners

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

Subject **Summer Learning Opportunities for First Nation Students**

I am writing to provide additional direction to support school boards in offering expanded summer learning opportunities for First Nation students attending both First Nation/federally-operated schools and provincially-funded schools.

On March 25, 2021, the ministry released 2021:SB04: [Federal Safe Return to Class Fund: 2020-21 Spring and Summer Learning Opportunities for School Boards](#). This memo included direction to school boards to register First Nation students who are already students of the board via the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) or an Education Service Agreement (ESA), as well as First Nations students who will be registering with the school board in September, in summer learning and credit courses at no charge for Summer 2021.

I am now writing to advise that for the purposes of the 2020-21 school board fiscal year, the ministry will be proposing changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) regulations to provide that school boards shall not charge fees for summer learning opportunities for the following students:

- First Nations students, including students over the age of 21, who are already students of the school board via the REA or and ESA, as well as First Nations students who will be registering with the school board in September 2021; and
- First Nation students, including students over 21, who may be living on reserve and are enrolled in First Nation/federally-operated schools.

Subject to Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) approval, such students would be treated as pupils of the board for the purposes of reporting in the applicable enrolment registers for Summer 2021. Appendix 1 of the March 25, 2021 memo, referenced above and link [here](#), contains details on reporting for these students.

Please note, the proposed changes to the GSN regulations, if approved, would be applicable for Summer 2021 only. The ministry will continue to engage with the Federal government and First Nation partners on long-term funding solutions.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges for First Nation students, and we are committed to providing equitable access to education for all First Nation students, regardless of whether they attend a First Nation-operated school or a provincially funded school.

Please contact Taunya Paquette, Director, Indigenous Education Office at Taunya.Paquette@Ontario.ca with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Denise Dwyer
Assistant Deputy Minister

- c: Assistant Deputy Minister, Education, Labour and Finance Division
- Executive Director, Ontario Association of Public School Boards (OPHCE)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
- Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjoints des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
- Chair, OCSTA Indigenous Trustees' Council
- Chair, OPSBA Indigenous Trustees' Council