

Secondary Student Policy

For members residing on First Nation Location 40A



Department of Lifelong Learning

Vision:

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation look to our Anishinaabe roots to guide our vision for the future as a strong, caring, connected community who respects the earth's gifts and protects the environment for future generations. Our identity includes our history, language, culture, beliefs and traditions which we strive to incorporate into the programs and services offered to our community.

Preamble:

MCFN secondary students have an inherent and treaty right to education. This includes the right to a safe, equitable and sustainable education system that incorporates the unique needs of each student.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Department of Lifelong Learning provides resources to MCFN secondary students that allow them to overcome barriers in their learning journey. The resources defined in this Policy are a way to provide guidance for MCFN secondary students.

The MCFN believes that its education system should provide every lifelong learner with complete educational services so that his or her abilities and talents are developed in a manner that will preserve the dignity of the learner. Education will promote and enhance the culture, traditions, and lifestyles of The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The MCFN endeavors to provide a relevant, meaningful, holistic education program, which will enhance the intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth of all learners.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation respects and recognizes the unique contribution of our secondary students. This policy will set out the vision, objectives, student rights and responsibilities, eligibility and a number of resources for our secondary students. Secondary student rights and responsibilities are set out so that benefits and responsibilities are clearly set out. It is the responsibility of every secondary student (parent/caregiver if under 18) to review and understand this policy.

Objective:

The MCFN Department of Lifelong Learning Secondary Student Policy seeks to provide learning resources so that secondary students can develop their individual potential. MCFN wants to see our students succeed and overcome learning obstacles.

Approved February 12 2024 by MCFN Executive Director of Operations

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Duration:

Secondary students residing on First Nation Location 40A are eligible for the support in this policy from September until June if enrolled and attending a secondary school in Brant County, Haldimand County or Norfolk County. Not all supports are available during the summer months if you are unsure of your entitlements, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Lifelong Learning.

Definitions:

- **Current academic year** is defined as September 1 to June 30 of any given year.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** – is a digital transfer of cash through an online payment system.
- **Long-term leave** – for the purposes of this policy, is defined as a leave from school longer than two weeks caused by physical, cognitive or mental health concern. This type of leave generally speaking is supported by a medical letter but will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- **Secondary Student** is a Secondary School Student means a student enrolled in a secondary school in Brant County, Haldimand County or Norfolk County

Policy Effective Date:

February 12, 2024 as approved by MCFN Executive Director of Operations

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Secondary students have various rights such as the right to be treated with respect and equal treatment. The MCFN Department of Lifelong Learning has a responsibility to support the success of the student's journey. We are here to help you be successful in your journey and encourage you (parent/caregiver if child is under 18) to reach out if you have needs not addressed in this policy.

The following are secondary student responsibilities:

- It is expected that secondary students will be enrolled in and attend secondary school to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC minimum of 14 credits) or Certificate of Accomplishment.
- The secondary student will set up a personal bank account and must communicate same to the MCFN Department of Lifelong Learning in order to receive financial supports.

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- The secondary student (parent/caregiver if under 18) must at all times provide a current address, email address and telephone number to the MCFN Department of Lifelong Learning.
- It is expected that secondary students will keep in regular contact with the MCFN elementary/secondary advisor; particularly if they are encountering difficulties or barriers to learning.
- A long-term leave must be communicated to the Department of Lifelong Learning within one week of missing school.

Application and Eligibility:

There are times in the education journey when a secondary student requires academic or other supports. This policy attempts to provide those supports and address and overcome any barriers in student success. Secondary students residing on First Nation location 40A (MCFN) attending secondary school in Brant County, Haldimand County or Norfolk County are eligible for the resources set out in this Policy. Secondary students also have responsibilities.

Busing/Transportation:

Busing is available to and from your secondary school and is a privilege provided by MCFN. This transportation service is available for all MCFN secondary students residing on First Nation Location 40A and enrolled in and attending the following five secondary schools in Brant County, Haldimand County or Six Nations: Hagersville Secondary School, Assumption College, Grand Erie Learning Alternative, Six Nations Polytechnic STEAM Academy and Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School (as per Council motion Financial Planning and Fiscal Oversight Council December 6, 2022)

Students (parent/caregiver for those under 18) must register for busing by July 1 of each year that busing is required.

Enrollment allowance:

Every member residing on First Nation Location 40A enrolled and attending secondary school in Brant, Haldimand or Norfolk County is eligible for an enrollment allowance of \$50.00 (Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents) each month that they are in school (September to June) beginning February 2024 (the effective date of this policy). The student must provide their banking information at the beginning of the school year so that this allowance can be transferred electronically by EFT to each student's bank account. Enrollment allowance payments will be made on a monthly basis.

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Food Security Support

Research shows that breakfast, snack and lunch programs in schools improve the learning abilities of children and youth. Each eligible student will receive \$10.00 per school day effective February 12, 2024 to June 28, 2024. This funding will be looked at on an annual basis for availability.

Menstrual products

Every female member residing on First Nation Location 40A enrolled and attending secondary school Brant County, Haldimand County or Norfolk County are eligible for free menstrual products. For those in need, you are encouraged to contact the MCFN Elementary/Secondary Advisor who will ensure you receive the products you need or you can stop by the Department of Lifelong Learning Office located at 659 New Credit Road building #5 between 8:30- 4:30.

Resources:

The Department of Lifelong Learning provides a number of resources for secondary students while enrolled in school.

Resources such as *computer loan program*, *tutoring* (see Secondary Tutoring Policy), and *food security funds* may be available for secondary students.

For those students who require additional resources to assist with *academic*, *activity fees* or *extra-curricular fees*, *co-op expenses*, or *other supports* are encouraged to contact the Department of Lifelong Learning to determine the supports available to them.

Uniform Fees:

Catholic School uniform fees are not covered under this Policy.

Mental Health supports:

If you are experiencing mental health difficulties, there are a number of resources available to you. The list below is not exhaustive. Should you need alternative support, you are encouraged to reach out to the MCFN elementary/secondary advisor or other indigenous supports in your school or community.

There are also supports available for families.

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BounceBack: <https://bouncebackontario.ca/>

A free, guided self-help program that's effective in helping people aged 15 and up who are experiencing mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression, or may be feeling low, stressed, worried, irritable or angry.

Distress and Crisis Ontario: <http://www.dcontario.org/>

Distress Centres (DC's) across Ontario offer support and a variety of services to their communities. At a DC you can find a listening ear for lonely, depressed, and/or suicidal people, usually 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The website also offers a chat function.

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868

Youth mental health support available 24/7.

Children's Mental Health Ontario Centres: cmho.org/findhelp/

100-member organizations operating in every region in Ontario, providing treatment and support to children, youth, and families. Free. No referral required.

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

Offers support to former residential school students and those affected. Available 24 hours.

Anishnawbe Health Toronto has a 24-hour crisis line that any Indigenous person can access: Workers can provide support and usually try to arrange for follow-up the next day for ongoing supports. Children and youth in crisis can also call and speak to a counsellor at Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868

