

SKWŪWŪ7MESH ÚXWUMIXW
SQUAMISH NATION

Elementary-Secondary (K-12) Education Policy

JUNE 6 / 2017



POLICY NAME:	Elementary–Secondary (K-12) Education Policy
CATEGORY:	Education
AUTHORITY:	Council
APPROVED ON:	June 6, 2017
EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 6, 2017

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

This policy is structured to respond to the learning needs of our children. Through the discovery and development of our children’s potential, we strive to enhance educational outcomes through relevant educational programs, services and support – to promote the overall well-being of our children and youth.

2.0 PURPOSE

To inform students, parents, guardians and membership of the K-12 education services and supports available through the Education, Employment & Training Department. Squamish Nation believes that in formalizing policies all individuals interacting with the Education, Employment & Training Department will be treated in a way that reflects our commitment to excellence based on the following principles:

- A. Enhance the educational outcomes for Squamish Nation students;
- B. Support Squamish Nation students with learning disabilities or special needs;
- C. Promote the overall well-being of students;
- D. Ensure fairness, equality and transparency;

3.0 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Students aged four (4) to nineteen (19) may be eligible to receive educational services and supports under this policy if they are:

- A. A Registered Squamish Nation member (**NOTE:** some supports require the student to live on Reserve); or
- B. First Nations individual registered as a status Indian under the *Indian Act* and are a confirmed resident residing on a Squamish Nation reserve (**NOTE:** non Squamish Nation students may not have access to all of the services or school supports offered and this will be referenced where applicable).

Eligible students must also be officially enrolled in a full-time educational program in a school that is provincially recognized as an elementary or secondary school including:

- I. First Nations school (on-reserve);
- II. Provincial (public) school; or
- III. Private (Independent) school.

4.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Application Deadline

To be eligible for school supports in any given school year, a fully completed Squamish Nation School Support Form must be submitted on or before May 31 of the preceding school year. For greater clarity, this means applications must be submitted approximately 3 months in advance of the start of school in September. Late applications will be added to a waitlist, but are not guaranteed approval.

B. School Support Form (Appendix A)

School support forms can be downloaded from the Squamish Nation website or picked up at the Squamish Nation main offices in North Vancouver or Squamish Valley.

Parents, guardians, or eligible students are fully responsible for:

- I. Ensuring all information requested on the School Support Form is fully complete and accurate. **NOTE:** Proof of residence may be required such as a household bill (Hydro, Gas, Shaw Cable etc);

- II. Submitting Form in accordance with the instructions on the Form. The Education, Employment & Training Department does not take responsibility for Forms received by other methods not prescribed in the Form.

The School Support Form and this policy are located on the squamish.net website.

NOTE: The Education Employment & Training Department encourages families to submit a “Direct Deposit Bank Authorization Form” (Appendix B) along with the School Support Form. This will allow for quicker receipt of your child(ren) supports.

C. Approval Notice

The Education, Employment & Training Department will notify parents, guardians, and/or eligible students of the approved school supports that the Squamish Nation will provide to the applicant student. The Notification will be sent on or before July 31st preceding the school year.

5.0 SPONSORSHIP / FUNDING APPROVAL

For all sponsorship/funding requests, applications are approved based on funding availability. Where there are more applications than funding available, approvals will be based on the date of application.

6.0 SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

The following subsections are applicable to the School support form process:

A. School Supplies

Approved Squamish Nation member applications can receive school supplies support once per academic year, to be issued at the end of August:

- I. K-Grade 7 \$60
- II. Grade 8-12 \$80

B. Student Travel Incentive & Allowance

- I. A monthly Travel incentive is available for the below qualifying applicants who live more than 1.6km (i.e. 1 mile) from the school they attend:
 - a) Squamish Nation Members,

- b) Non-Squamish Nation members who reside on a Squamish Nation Reserve.
- II. A monthly Allowance is available for the below qualifying applicants in the (8-12) grades:
- a) Squamish Nation Members,
 - b) Non-Squamish Nation members who reside on a Squamish Nation Reserve.

A qualifying student supplies/travel/allowance cheque will be mailed out on the 25th of each month prior to the month the support is meant for. For example, September's cheque will be mailed out on August 25th, etc.

C. Other School Subsidies

Eligible students may be supported with the specific fees identified below, pending budget availability. All fees/educational supports must be PRE-AUTHORIZED by the Education, Employment & Training Department. No reimbursements are issued for educational expenses paid by parent/guardian without prior authorization.

Eligible students must meet the following criteria:

- A. Squamish Nation Members,
- B. Non-Squamish Nation members who reside on a Squamish Nation Reserve.

Eligible School Subsidies:

- I. School Fees;
- II. School organized athletics;
- III. Band/Choir Fees;
- IV. Education-related school field trips (to a maximum of \$150 per school year);
- V. Student Grant, once per school year;
 - a) Is a student benefit of up to a maximum of fifty-percent (50%) of the total cost to a maximum of \$1,000, excluding meals and spending money (which ever is the lesser) for a school organized special trip or off-site training for athletics for school based teams, band/choir, academics providing it is a school credit granting activity.

- > Example 1: If a student applied for a Soccer Academy which costs \$1,500, the Department can sponsor up to a maximum of \$750 towards the fees.
- > Example 2: If a student applied for a School Soccer team trip which costs \$3,500, the Department can sponsor up to a maximum of \$1,000.

VI. High School Graduation Award

- a) Only students graduating in the current academic year, who submit an official transcript by November 1st of the year they graduated, qualify for a graduation award.

Not eligible for supports or reimbursement:

- I. Yearbooks;
- II. Fines for lost textbooks;
- III. Library fines;
- IV. Uniforms;
- V. Instrument rentals;
- VI. High cost school supplies, which are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

7.0 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The following educational support services may be requested at any time during a school year to eligible students per Section 3 or as otherwise indicated below.

A. Advocate Support

(Available to all Eligible Students including members off reserve) An Elementary School Advocate (supporting Kindergarten to Grade 7 students) and a High School Student Advocate (supporting Grade 8 to 12 students) are available to support your child(ren) through their educational journey. Ideally, these two positions should be your first point of contact when inquiring into programs and services offered through the Education, Employment & Training Department. Please refer to the Squamish Nation website or call the Squamish Nation main office for contact information.

B. Tutoring

(Available to Squamish Nation members only) may request tutoring supports with the following conditions:

- I. To a maximum of 20 hours per year of one-on-one tutoring support, pending budget availability;
- II. Additional tutoring hours may be approved subject to student progress, attendance and budget availability;
- III. A copy of the most recent report card and a referral from a teacher or school counselor must accompany a parent request;
- IV. Tutoring support is considered for students in grade 3 or higher only;
- V. Any late, cancellation, or failure to attend costs will be the responsibility of the parent and may result in termination of tutoring support; and
- VI. Prior approval and authorization will be required before Education and Employment & Training Department tutoring support can be approved.

C. Remedial Services (Occupational Therapist/Speech & Language Pathologist)

(Available for Squamish Nation Members only) Remedial services requests require a referral from a school counselor, teacher or administrator. Pending budget availability, priority is focused on registered Squamish Nation members who are enrolled in elementary school.

D. Educational Assessments

(Available for Squamish Nation Members only) Requires a referral from a school counselor, teacher or administrator and is limited to one (1) assessment per three (3) year period for students in grade 3 or higher. The proceeding is pending budget availability, priority is focused on elementary school interventions.

8.0 SPECIAL NEEDS PRIVATE SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is available to Squamish Nation Members only. Parents must submit and complete a “Squamish Nation School Support Form” by the May 31st deadline.

The Nation designates a maximum amount that a student may receive in Special Needs Private School Sponsorship every year and is generally set at an amount that can cover tuition of preferred Special Needs schools identified by the Nation. Tuition will be paid directly to the school and Parents will be responsible for any costs over and above the designated amount.

Squamish Nation students may be eligible for Special Needs Private school sponsorship based upon the following criteria:

- a) Official documentation that the student is a registered Squamish Nation member;
- b) A psychological educational assessment must be submitted with the application for Special Needs Private School sponsorship. The assessment must identify that this student has a designated learning disability or “special need”;
- c) A “Squamish Nation School Support Form” is submitted by the deadline of May 31st prior to each academic year a member is applying for;
- d) Proof that parents have submitted an application to the respective school/ organization for a bursary, where applicable.

NOTE: Failure to submit Squamish Nation School Support Form by the May 31st Deadline may result in a loss of funding for Special Needs Private School Sponsorship. Students may be put on a waitlist. Nation sponsorship is dependent upon budget availability.

9.0 PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION

(Sponsorship is available to Eligible Students only per Section 3) that meet the following criteria:

- a) Must reside on a Squamish Nation Reserve (Proof of residency will be required);
- b) Completed Squamish Nation School Support Form by the May 31st deadline every year.

The Nation designates a maximum dollar amount that an eligible student under this section may receive towards private school sponsorship. The amount may vary each year based on federal funding provided to the Education, Employment & Training Department.

The Parent/Legal Guardian will be solely responsible for any amount that is over the designated limit. Upon Departmental approval, tuition will be paid directly to the school.

NOTE: The Education, Employment & Training Department may deny sponsorship if the Squamish Nation On-Reserve residency cannot be confirmed.

IMPORTANT FORMS

To access forms please go to the url links below:

APPENDIX A

School Support Forms

<http://www.squamish.net/government/departments/service-delivery/education-skwxwu7mesh-uxwumixw-ns7eyxnitm-ta-sneweyalh/>

APPENDIX B

Direct Deposit Bank Authorization Form

<http://www.squamish.net/government/departments/service-delivery/education-skwxwu7mesh-uxwumixw-ns7eyxnitm-ta-sneweyalh/>



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