

ADMISSION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

Background

The Division believes in and recognizes the rights of a student identified to be an independent student as defined by the *Education Act*.

Definitions

Independent Student – means a student who is:

- a) 18 years of age or older; or
- b) 16 years of age or older, and
 - i) living independently as determined by a board in accordance with section 6 of the *Education Act*, or
 - ii) who is a party to an agreement under section 57.2 of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*;

and is entitled to exercise all the rights and powers and receive all the benefits and is subject to all the obligations under the Education Act that the student's parent/guardian would be entitled to exercise or receive or would be subject to, and the student's parent/guardian shall not exercise those rights, receive those benefits, or be subject to those obligations.

Procedures

1. A student who is 18 years of age or older is an independent student and can request that no communication be provided to their parent/guardian.
2. Any student who is between 16 and 18 years of age may request to be considered an independent student.
3. The student shall complete form 304-1 (*Independent Student Declaration*).
4. To determine independent status, the Principal shall consider various criteria from the following list:
 - 4.1 A written statement from the student or the student's parent/guardian indicating that the student is living independently;
 - 4.3 the student's living arrangements;
 - 4.4 whether the student is financially independent or contributes financially to their maintenance;
 - 4.5 whether the student is responsible for the making of significant decisions regarding matters such as health care.
5. If the Principal determines that the criteria for independent student status are met, the student shall be recognized as an independent student and this status shall be entered in the student information system.
6. If the Principal determines that the criteria are not met, then the student and the parent/guardian shall be advised in writing.

7. In the event that circumstances change and the student no longer meets the criteria for independent status, the student and parent/guardian must inform the Principal of the change in writing. The Principal shall then enter the information to reflect the change of status in the student information system.
8. All correspondence shall be directly with the independent student unless the student provides written consent allowing the Principal or a designate to provide information to the parent/guardian.

Reference: Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 22, 33, Education Act
 Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act

Forms: Independent Student Declaration 304-1