

# *Ahkwesāhsne Mohawk Board of Education*



## **POLICY 31**

### **ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION ALLOCATIONS**

#### **Please Note:**

AMBE policies are governance documents that state the Board's decision related to an area of operation by stating purpose, guiding principles, basic procedures, and key responsibilities.

AMBE senior management is accountable for implementing Board policies and is expected to exercise good judgment when implementing the policies in the context of day-to-day operations. Where appropriate, senior management may decide to develop specific guidelines and procedures, Administrative Frameworks, to ensure the appropriate implementation of Board policy.

This policy was adopted for the first time by the Ahkwesāhsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) on:  
June 16, 2021

Subsequent amendments:  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

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## 2. Purpose

The purpose of *Policy 31: Access to Secondary Education Allocations*, is to ensure that all Akwesasne students have equitable opportunities to access quality education within the capacity of the AMBE.

## 3. Definitions

<b>3.1 Akwesasne Students</b>	All students under the jurisdiction of the <i>Mohawk Council of Akwesasne</i> who have the right to access <i>Ahkwešāhsne Mohawk Board of Education</i> early childhood, elementary, secondary and post-secondary programs and services.
<b>3.2 The Board</b>	Refers to the <i>Ahkwešāhsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE)</i> , which includes both the governance and administrative structure.
<b>3.3 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA)</b>	The <i>Mohawk Council of Akwesasne</i> is a Community Government, which is elected by the residents of the Mohawk Community of Akwesasne. The AMBE is the only department of the MCA that has its own governance structure, the <i>Board of Trustees</i> .
<b>3.4 Director of Education</b>	The executive officer and lead manager of the <i>Ahkwešāhsne Mohawk Board of Education</i> who is directly accountable to the Board for the administration of the Board’s schools, centers, programs and services and the management of its human, financial and material resources.

3.5	<b>Student Allocations</b>	Is considered as financial assistance to secondary school students in order to further their education.
3.6	<b>Equitable</b>	Normally refers to fairness and impartiality.

## 4. Principles & Guidelines

### 4.1. Importance of Akwesasne Students' Access to Education

- 4.1.1. Akwesasne students' education is a top priority for the Board of Trustees, and it commits to providing equitable opportunities for all students so that they may access quality education aimed at optimising their success.

### 4.2. Student Allocations

- 4.2.1. Within the capacity of AMBE, an Akwesasne student is entitled to receiving an appropriate allocation to ensure that they have equitable access to an education.
- 4.2.2. Akwesasne students will be provided with access to the resources required to participate in planned academic courses and programming.

### 4.3. Secondary Education

- 4.3.1. The AMBE believes that its secondary students (Grades 9 – 12) should have access to a range of educational opportunities, including Ontario public schools that offer specialized programs leading to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or its equivalent.

### 4.4. Private Schools

- 4.4.1. The AMBE understands that some parents/guardians may opt for a secondary school other than those available in Cornwall, and will provide limited sponsorship to attend a Canadian private secondary school.

## 5. Procedures

### 5.1. Access to Secondary Education

- 5.1.1. Upon graduation of Grade 8, AMBE students will attend secondary schools with whom AMBE has Education Service Agreements for their secondary school programs leading to the obtainment of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
- 5.1.2. Akwesasne students enrolled in secondary studies through the AMBE will be provided with the following supports:
- For students attending a high school through an Education Service Agreement, for courses identified in a student's timetable, they will receive:
    - A limited voucher for school supplies, which will be distributed by the Native Student Advisor(s) twice a year; and
- 5.1.3. Annually, Non-AMBE parents/guardians may request assistance for their children to attend a Canadian public *Non Tuition Agreement* secondary school (Grades 9 – 12);
- An allocation will only be considered if the program is not available in a secondary school with whom the AMBE has an Education Service Agreement;
  - The provision of tuition assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the following conditions:

- Consideration may be given to a student who previously attended an AMBE school for a period of 5 years or more to access allocation within the current school year; and
  - A student who transfers from a Non-AMBE school must be on the AMBE nominal roll for one school year before the fall allocation can be accessed for tuition;
  - If the student's first year on the AMBE nominal roll occurs during the school year, given that AMBE receives its funding annually in April, tuition for the balance of that school year will only be covered from April to June.
- Tuition assistance will not exceed the rate paid under the most current Education Service Agreements.

## 5.2. Private schools

- 5.2.1. The AMBE will sponsor attendance in a private school based on funding availability.
- 5.2.2. Students will be considered eligible for private school sponsorship if:
- At the time of request for assistance to attend a private school, they are enrolled in one of the schools under the jurisdiction of the AMBE; and
  - They have successfully completed Grade 8, Grade 9, or Grade 10, and meet the admission requirements of the private school (the Board will **not** sponsor Grade 12 students for private school assistance or assistance for other schooling outside the jurisdiction of the AMBE).
- 5.2.3. Approval to sponsor a student attending private school will be term specific, and each application will be considered on its own merits based on the following:
- Unavailability of appropriate programs in the community;
  - Availability and amount of federal financial support to the Board;
  - Comparative costs of suitable programs available in alternate locations; and
  - Degree to which the requested program meets the educational needs of the student and community;
  - Must be a member of Akwesasne and reside on the territory.
- 5.2.4. Allocation assistance will be considered in accordance with the current agreement with the Upper Canada District School Board;
- 5.2.5. All costs related to the application process for a private school will be assumed by the parents/guardians, including but not limited to: any visits to a private school prior to admission, any application fees, and the cost of any entrance tests such as the *Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT)*;
- 5.2.6. Continued support will be reviewed **by semester/annually** and contingent on acceptable progress and school attendance; and
- 5.2.7. The AMBE reserves the right to remove support when an appropriate program is instituted in or near the community.

## 6. Roles & Responsibilities

### 6.1. The Ahkwasāhsne Mohawk Board of Education will:

#### *Access to education*

- Within the capacity of the Board, ensure all students have access to resources required to participate in planned academic courses and programming.

### *Secondary education*

- Maintain and renew all *Education Service Agreements* for their secondary school programs, which lead to the obtainment of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
- Ensure secondary students are provided with vouchers to assist with regular school supplies geared to subjects taken and students' timetables, and assistance to purchase required specialized course and program materials;
- Consider by resolution of the Board, requests from AMBE students and their parents/guardians who wish to opt for a secondary school other than those available in Cornwall; and
- Consider by resolution of the Board, requests from Non-AMBE parents/guardians for their children to attend Canadian public *Non Tuition Agreement* secondary schools (Grades 9 – 12), in which cases AMBE may provide tuition assistance.

### *Private schools*

- For each academic year and when conditions are met, sponsor Akwesasne students to attend a Canadian private **secondary** school based upon available funds; and

### *Policy Implementation*

- The Policy is enforced and implemented by the AMBE staff.

## **6.2. The Director of Education will:**

### *Access to education*

- With the support of the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services and Secondary School Administration, ensure all students have access through the secondary school to the resources required to participate in planned academic courses and programming.

### *Secondary education*

- With the support of the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services, ensure the maintenance and review of Education Service Agreements, which lead to the obtainment of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma;
- With the support of the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services, ensure secondary students are provided with vouchers to assist with regular school supplies geared to subjects taken and students' timetables,
- With the support of the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services, annually review requests from AMBE students or their parents/guardians who wish to opt for a secondary school other than those available in Cornwall, and prepare recommendations for the Board to consider; and
- With the support of the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services, annually review requests from Non-AMBE parents/guardians who wish their children to attend Canadian public *Non Tuition Agreement* secondary schools (Grades 9 – 12), and prepare recommendations for the Board to consider.

### *Private Schools*

- For each academic year that:
  - When informed that a parent will be applying for their child to attend a private school, ensure they are provided with a copy of this policy informing them that:
    - they must assume all costs related to the application process; and
    - assistance will be considered in accordance with the current agreement with the Upper Canada District School Board;

- Continued support will be reviewed **by semester/annually** and contingent on acceptable progress and school attendance; and
- The AMBE reserves the right to remove support when an appropriate program is instituted in or near the community.
- Each application is reviewed to determine if the student meets the application requirements;
- Make a recommendation to the Board regarding the sponsorship of Akwesasne students to attend a private **secondary** school.

*Policy Implementation*

- The Policy is enforced and implemented by the AMBE staff.

### **6.3. Coordinator of Secondary Student Services will:**

*Secondary education*

- Under the direction of the Director of Education, ensure that the Education Service Agreements for their secondary school programs, which lead to the obtainment of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, are maintained and renewed;
- Under the direction of the Director of Education, ensure secondary students are provided with vouchers to assist with regular school supplies geared to subjects taken and students' timetables;
- Ensure that, twice a year, a limited voucher is issued to the student or parents/guardians by the Native Student Advisor;
- Under the direction of the Director of Education, annually review any request on the part of AMBE students and their parents/guardians who wish to opt for a secondary school other than those available in Cornwall, and prepare recommendations for the Board to consider; and
- Under the direction of the Director of Education, review any requests from Non-AMBE parents/guardians for their children to attend Canadian public *Non Tuition Agreement* secondary schools (Grades 9 – 12), and prepare recommendations for the Board to consider.

*Private Schools*

- Under the direction of of the Director of Education, ensure students meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for Canadian private school sponsorship; and
- Under the direction of the Director of Education, for students selected for sponsorship every semester/annually, review the students' progress and attendance records in order to confirm continued support.

*Policy Implementation*

- Ensure the policy is enforced and implemented by the AMBE school staff.

### **6.4. Native Student Advisor(s) will:**

- Issue a limited voucher to the students twice a year.

### **6.5. AMBE Principals will:**

*Access to education*

- Collaborate with the Coordinator of Secondary Student Services to ensure that a transition process is followed;

- Inform parents of the resources required for their child to participate in planned academic courses and programming.

*Private Schools*

- Provide parents with a copy of the policy, when a parent expresses an interested in applying for their child to attend a private school; and
- Ensure Parents/guardians are informed that they must contact the Board Office for any additional information.

*Policy Implementation*

- Ensure the policy is enforced and implemented by the AMBE school staff.

**6.6. AMBE Communications Officer will:**

- When required, assist the Director of Education in communicating any relevant information regarding the present policy to parents/guardians.

**6.7. Students or Parents/Guardians will:**

*Secondary education*

- For those parents/guardians who wish to opt for a secondary school other than those available in Cornwall, make a request to the AMBE annually;
- When criteria are met, Non-AMBE parents/guardians may request assistance for their children to attend Canadian public *Non Tuition Agreement* secondary schools (Grades 9 – 12); and

*Private Schools*

- That when a parent expresses an interested in applying for their child to attend a Canadian private school, they are provided with a copy of this policy; and
- The parents/guardians are informed that they must contact the Board Office for any additional information.

**7. Policy Review and Revision**

***Principles and Directives:***

- 7.1.1. It is important for the policies of the Ahkwesāhsne Mohawk Board of Education to remain current and serve the best interest of Akwesasne students and the Akwesasne community.
- 7.1.2. The Board of Trustees recognizes that this policy should be reviewed at a minimum of every 5 years and/or when the legal or regulatory requirements of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne change or the Board must meet new government obligations.
- 7.1.3. To this end, the Board requires that the Director of Education establish an administrative process for the development, regular review and revision of Board policies to ensure they are meeting the needs of the Board’s school and centers, and most importantly, the needs of students, parents and guardians, employees and the Akwesasne community.

***Procedures:***

- 7.1.4. The Board of Trustees will establish a timeline for the regular review of Board policies that requires this policy be reviewed at the minimum 5 years from the date of approval by the Board.

7.1.5. The Director of Education will establish an administrative framework for the development, regular review and revision of Board policies.

***Roles and Responsibilities:***

7.1.6. Board of Trustees will:

- Establish a timeline for the regular review of Board policies and ensure that it is respected; and
- Ensure that this policy is reviewed at a minimum every 5 years from the date of approval, or when the legal or regulatory requirements of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne change or the Board must meet new government obligations.

7.1.7. The Director of Education will:

- Initiate a review of this policy at a minimum every 5 years from the date of approval, or when the legal or regulatory requirements of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne change or the Board must meet new government obligations.