



TCSA POLICY	
TITLE	Home Boarding Policy
POLICY NUMBER	21-08-V2
PROGRAM NAME	JK-Grade 12
DOMAIN NAME	Education
EFFECTIVE DATE	7-July-2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE	7-September-2027
APPROVAL DATE	7-September-2024
ISSUING AUTHORITY	Tłıchǵo Community Services Agency
ACCREDITATION STANDARD	N/A

POLICY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Alexis Arrowmaker School in Wekweètì offers students grade JK-10 programming. Upon completion of grade 10, a student and their parents/guardians may decide to continue their grade 11 and 12 programs at a school in another Tłıchǵo community. The home boarding program is available to Wekweètì students to continue with their high school education upon completion of grade 10 in Wekweètì. Grade 11 and 12 programs are available to the Wekweètì students who have a choice of attending one of the following high schools:

- Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Behchokò,
- Mezi Community School in Whatì, or
- Jean Wetrade School in Gamètì.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide guidelines for selection and fiscal responsibilities;
- outline application of a home boarding program;
- identify roles and responsibilities of impacted participants in the home boarding program.

The home boarding program for Wekweètì students provides transportation costs from the outlying community, room, and board, students' allowance, and other extra-curricular activities as they arise (with prior approval) for the student.



DEFINITIONS:

Home boarding refers to the program that supports Wekweètì students continuing their education programs in another Tłıchǫ community for grades 11 and 12 by staying with another Tłıchǫ family.

Home Boarding Coordinator refers to a TCSA staff who has these responsibilities:

- Supports parents to find placements
- Manage the administration of the program
- Main point of contact for home boarding participants.

Home boarding family means the hosting parents, and possibly other family members.

Home boarding home means the hosting location.

Home boarding student is a grade 11 or 12 student and whose parents/guardians live in Wekweètì and is eligible to receive home boarding service in order to continue with grade 11 and 12 in another Tłıchǫ community. Parent or Guardian is the legal custodian of a home boarding student.

Grade level determination is made under the definition within the NWT JK-12 School Handbook and refers to course completion not age.

Parent or Guardian is the legal custodian of a home boarding student.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to:

- A student who is eligible and has been admitted into the home boarding program;
- A parent/guardian of a student participating in the home boarding program;
- Home Boarding Coordinator and other TCSA staff who are involved with the home boarding program;
- Home boarding family

PROCEDURE

Eligibility and Application of the Home Boarding Program

Within Tłıchǫ Region



The home boarding program is available to current high school students who are:

- less than 21 years of age; **and**
- a **Wekweètì student** upon completion of grade 10 in Wekweètì who wishes to continue with their high school education (grade 11 and 12) at one of the schools located **within** Tłıchǵ Region:
 - Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Behchokò,
 - Mezi Community School in Whatì, or
 - Jean Wetrade School in Gamètì.

The home boarding program **does not** apply to Whatì, Gamètì and Behchokò students as there are high schools available in their respective community.

Outside of Tłıchǵ Region

Wekweètì students who wish to continue with their high school program outside the Tłıchǵ Region (i.e., in Yellowknife or other NWT community that is not in Tłıchǵ Region) are **not eligible** for the home boarding program and are financially responsible for their own home boarding program.

The TCSA accepts no financial responsibility for transportation to or from Wekweètì to Yellowknife (or any other location), room and board, and/or other extra-curricular activities outside the Tłıchǵ region (this is largely due to the fact that when Tłıchǵ students choose to attend outside the Tłıchǵ region, the TCSA lose funding for that student).

Rates

The home boarding daily rate is \$50/day/student. The rate is a standard rate per child and may change from time to time. The payments are issued in accordance with TCSA financial protocols but at a minimum monthly.

Student specific rates

Flight: Up to three (3) round trips from a home community to the host Tłıchǵ community per school year for the approved home boarding student via the most economical method (ex: flights, or vehicle on winter road).

Allowance: each student in the home boarding program receives an allowance of \$100 per month when residing with the home boarding home. This allowance is recorded using an approved TCSA template (Appendix A).

Extra-curricular or other expenses: require the approval of the Director of Education



Roles and Responsibilities

Parent(s) /Guardian(s) of Student

By participating in a home boarding program, it requires the parent/guardian jointly agree to the following conditions:

- The agreement (Appendix B) to place a student in a home boarding home for the purpose of attending school is between parent/ guardian, student, and home boarding family;
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:
 - select a home boarding placement with family or friends of family and take full responsibility for the quality of the care provided by the home boarding family;
 - inform in writing if there are any changes in plans for the student. The notification must be provided to:
 - home boarding family,
 - Home Boarding Coordinator,
 - Community Liaison & Student Transition Services of the home boarding programs for the TCSA (Education), or his / her agent.
- Notify the school and home boarding parent/guardian if student is unable to attend school;
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian for all parent/guardian travel costs and arrangements to attend meetings, graduations, or other trips to visit the community in which the student is placed. The TCSA is not responsible for paying for travel, accommodations, or other expenses associated with parent/guardian travel.
- It is the responsibility of the homeboarding family for all homeboarding family travel costs and arrangements to attend meetings, graduations, or other trips to visit the community in which the student is placed. The TCSA is not responsible for paying for travel, accommodations, or other expenses associated with homeboarding family travel.

Exceptional circumstance – Grade 12 Graduation Attendance

- The Director of Education may approve one (1) trip for the parent/guardian (up to two people) for the purpose of attending a grade 12 graduation, by the most economical method. The assessment and approval is made on case-by-case basis in exceptional circumstances. If a flight is missed, costs may be retrieved from the parent/guardian and no further flights will be approved.



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- *Inclusions:* Travel cost (i.e. cost of flight by the most economical method) within the Tłı̨chǫ region, and only valid during the duration of the graduation.
- *Exclusions:* no accommodations, per diems, or other expenses may be incurred by the TCSA for the purpose of a parent/guardian attending a graduation. Flights may not be exchanged or transferred.

Student

During the time period when participating in the home boarding program, the student agrees to the following conditions that may include, but are not limited to:

- Respect and adhere to the house rules of the home boarding family, for example, curfews on weeknights and weekends, chores, personal hygiene, and study time;
- Prohibited from using drugs and alcohol;
- Attend school every day, and notify the school and home boarding parent when unable to attend due to illness or other excused absence;
- Use study time wisely. Stay after school to get extra help as needed and complete school work as assigned;
- Inform the home boarding parent(s) and the Home Boarding Coordinator, Community Liaison & Student Transition Services of the home boarding programs of any circumstances which are interfering with their performance at school.

Home Boarding Parent(s)

By participating in a home-boarding program, it requires the home boarding parent(s) to jointly agree to the following conditions:

- The agreement (Appendix B) to place a student in a home boarding home for the purpose of attending school is between parent/ guardian, student, and home boarding family;
- It is the responsibility of the home boarding parents to:
 - maintain a high quality of care;
 - provide a home that is accessible and has particular amenities, where the student will have a safe, secure and private bedroom and take full responsibility for the quality of the care provided to the student(s) with compensation not to exceed the \$40/day/student payment;
 - have appropriate insurance policy cover for students residing in their home;
 - ensure that the students, TCSA staff, and students' parents can reach the Home Boarding parents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in case of an emergency;
 - assist and support the student's attendance at school and support the completion of homework assignments where required;



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- assist the student to access any medical, dental or other health-related services including making appointments, and if required where necessary, accompany the student to those appointments and if required advise the student's parent(s) and TCSA.
- Notify the school and parent/guardian if student is unable to attend school;
- Home boarding placements follow NWT Foster Family Guide and TCSA approved placement. This includes but is not limited to providing vulnerable sector background checks for all adults residing in the home.

TCSA

TCSA does not select or monitor the home boarding families, but has the role of coordinating the home boarding program, which includes but is not limited to:

- Assign duties of a Home Boarding Coordinator to a Regional Staff, to oversee placement, support, and deliver the home boarding program;
- Make payments to home boarding families in the amount of \$50/day/student, and when approved for other costs outlined in this policy;
- Ensure background checks of the selected home boarding parents are provided to parents to aid in the decision process;
- Keep accurate records of all placements and respond to changes in the home boarding placements as they arrive.

As per the *NWT Education Act*, when a student has reached an education level beyond that offered in the education district in which the student resides, or the educational needs of the student would be better served at another school, and with approval of the student (and the student's parents when the student is a minor), the TCSA may enter into agreements with another educational body to enable the student to attend school in an education district other than the one in which the student resides. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and is typically outside the home boarding arrangements, by the Director of Education.

On occasion, slight deviations from a strict interpretation of the scope of this policy may be required and approved by the CEO at this time.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Compliance with the home boarding program scope is regularly verified through oversight by the TCSA Home Boarding Coordinator. The Home Boarding Coordinator will:

- regularly monitor the participants in the home boarding program (ie: students,



students' parents/guardians, and home boarding parents) ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of each participant are being met in full, and

- regular audits of the student allowance management.

CROSS-REFERENCES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Student allowance management – template

Appendix B – Home boarding agreement template

REFERENCES

GNWT *Education Act*; Section 118, 1 (e) and 2 (c)

NWT JK-12 School Handbook [NWT JK-12 School Handbook | Education, Culture and Employment \(gov.nt.ca\)](https://www.gov.nt.ca)

NWT Foster Family Guide, 2019 Edition; Foster Family Coalition of the NWT;

APPROVAL:

Reviewed and Approved By:

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7-September-2024

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7-September-2024