



TCSA POLICY	
TITLE	Mature Student Policy
POLICY NUMBER	21-09-V2
PROGRAM NAME	JK-Grade 12
DOMAIN NAME	Education
EFFECTIVE DATE	11-December-2023
NEXT REVIEW DATE	11-December-2026
APPROVAL DATE	11-December-2023
ISSUING AUTHORITY	Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency
ACCREDITATION STANDARD	N/A

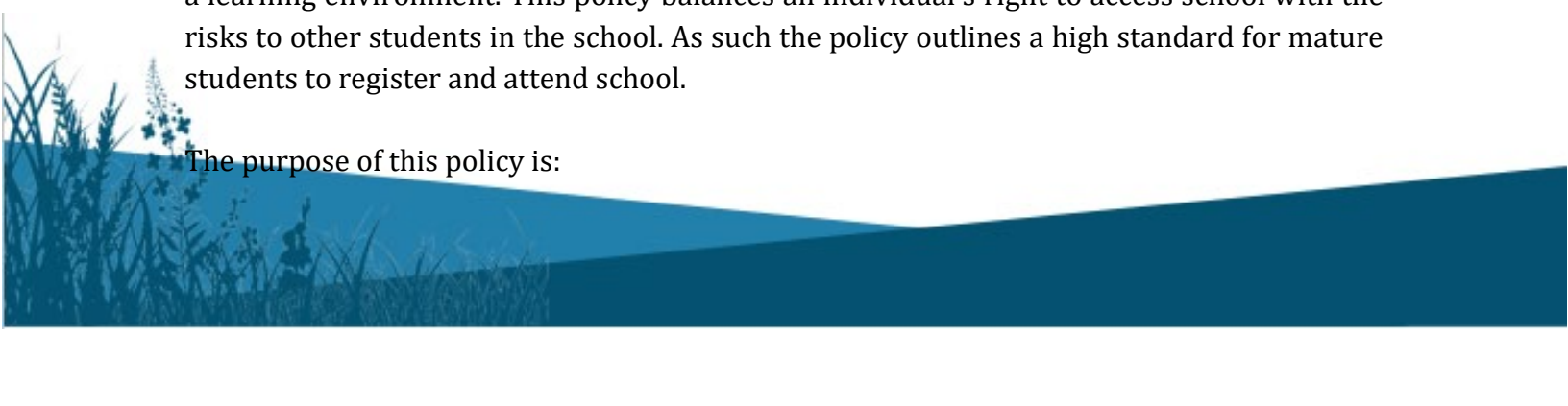
POLICY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

This policy draws its authority from the NWT Education Act and the NWT School Handbook. The Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA) believes that education is a lifelong process that requires the shared participation of all stakeholders. Our secondary schools will promote the development of Tłı̨chǫ citizens who are prepared for their future educational and professional experiences as mature students. This will be accomplished by recognizing and celebrating strengths, providing programming that is responsive to their needs, including a Career Program Plan, and by encouraging students to be 'Strong Like Two People'. The TCSA encourages mature students to return and be successful in graduating high school or reaching their educational goals.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

This policy will provide guidance on processes to encourage success for mature students and to ensure the TCSA schools maintain safe practices when introducing mature students into a learning environment. This policy balances an individual's right to access school with the risks to other students in the school. As such the policy outlines a high standard for mature students to register and attend school.

The purpose of this policy is:





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- To ensure that all members of the school community are treated with respect and dignity;
- To promote responsible participation in the school community
- To promote the safety of people in the schools;
- Set clear expectations for their academic and social behaviours;
- To prohibit the use of alcohol and illegal drugs on school property; and
- To maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.

DEFINITIONS:

Mature Student: Students who have met the graduation requirements (Section 5.2.1) and are returning to school on September 1st of the current school year will be given 'mature student status'. A mature student refers to a student who is:

- twenty-one years of age or older; or
- nineteen years of age and who, since reaching the age of eighteen, has been out of school for eight consecutive months; or
- the holder of a previously awarded Senior Secondary School graduation diploma.

Career Program Plan: a living document that is reviewed and revised as the student moves through the senior secondary grades, and refines personal goals, aspirations, and post-secondary plans. The CPP plays a crucial role in decisions relating to a student's senior secondary school program planning.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This policy will apply to all mature students registering at and attending TCSA schools, including alternative programming.

PROCEDURE:

1. The director of Education under the TCSA Senior Secondary Policy has to approve all transfers in/out of courses after the first 3 weeks of the semester.
2. Mature student course programming must follow the guidelines in the NWT School Handbook, Section 5. Course selection will be determined by the student and school administration in accordance with Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) guidelines.



3. General Expectations:

- Conduct themselves as role models, attend regularly, register for core courses to support their Career and Program Plan, and should register for school prior to the start of the school semester.
- Appropriate conduct is further demonstrated by:
 - Daily school attendance above 60% by the end of first reporting period
 - No office referrals for behavior/conduct concerns;
 - Consistently demonstrating positive and respectful behaviour in line with the school's behaviour expectations, the TCSA Safe and Caring School Policy, and the GNWT Promising Practices for Respectful and Harassment-Free School Communities;
 - Zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use, and other unsafe behaviours while on school property;
 - Attend classes when in the school - not in halls, or out of class; and
 - Register for a minimum of 20 credits/year (unless fewer credits are needed for graduation) and focus on core courses required for graduation.

4. Mature students must register for the semester's classes within the first 3 weeks of the semester; otherwise, they must register for the next semester.

5. Mature students will sign a student contract that outlines these and other expectations that are the conditions under which they may register in a Tłıchǵo school Understanding that by signing this contract, the student agrees to the conditions, and if the student fails to meet these conditions, they will be withdrawn from that semester's classes, and may not register again till the next semester. The contract will include a statutory declaration that there is no court order, including terms of probation or no contact orders, that would preclude them from attending the school. Schools may add additional expectations for mature students on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Director of Education.

6. Principals are responsible for registering mature students and must verify the following in order to complete registration:

- Signed contract;
- Completed school registration form; and
- Review the mature student's transcript and Career Program Plan to register students in appropriate programming.



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7. The Principal will communicate the withdrawal of the mature student from the senior high program in writing, as well as make every effort to do so verbally. There must be accompanying documentation with the written notice. The Director of Education must be informed of any mature students who are removed from the school enrollment.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Audits of the school registrations are conducted by the Regional Education Information and Computer Technology Coordinator in conjunction with the Principal.

CROSS-REFERENCES:

TCSA Safe and Caring Schools Policy
TCSA Senior High Program Policy

ATTACHMENTS:

Mature Student Contract

REFERENCES:

- NWT Education Act
- GNWT Promising Practices for Respectful and Harassment Free School Communities

APPROVAL

Reviewed and Approved By:

Kevin Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer
11-Dec-2023

Reviewed and Approved By:

Ted Blondin
TCSA Chairperson
11-Dec-2023