

Information Bulletin

International Student Services

BACKGROUND

In our rapidly changing world, the demands for quality education and English language instruction are increasing significantly. Many international students, especially those from Japan and South-East Asia, recognize that Alberta offers quality educational services and they are interested in accessing these services. When international students study in Alberta, they benefit by obtaining highly respected credentials, which are accepted at post-secondary institutions worldwide. They also learn about the Canadian way of life and develop a better understanding of Canadian culture.

In addition, through contacts with these international students, Alberta students have an opportunity to get to know students from other cultures and to establish friendships with these students. It is through such international linkages that joint activity on worldwide issues can be achieved.

There are several categories of international student, and guidelines for each category are given separately.

POLICY

Alberta Learning welcomes students from other countries and encourages school jurisdictions to assist those students who wish to be educated in Alberta schools.

STATUTE

School Act

Right of access to education

- 8 (1) Every individual
- (a) who at September 1 in a year is 6 years of age or older and younger than 19 years of age, and
 - (b) who is
 - (i) a Canadian citizen,
 - (ii) lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence,
 - (iii) a child of a Canadian citizen, or

- (iv) a child of an individual who is lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent or temporary residence

is entitled to have access in that school year to an education program in accordance with this **Act**.

Tuition fees

- 49 (2) A board may charge tuition fees in respect of an individual who attends a school operated by the board and who is not a resident student of the board or any other board or the Government.
- (3) A tuition fee charged under subsection (2)
- (b) in respect of an individual who is not entitled under section 8 to have access to an education program may exceed the cost to the board of having that individual enrolled in a school operated by the board.

Powers of boards

- 60 (1) A board must
- (a) establish policies respecting the provision of educational services and programs...

Foreign students

46 A board shall enroll all individuals who are entitled under section 8 to have access to an education program in a school year before enrolling an individual who is not entitled under section 8 to have access to an education program in that school year.

Contract

Alberta Learning has contracted its administration of the Alberta International Student Program to the Learning Network: The Society for Professional Development and Educational Exchange.

ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

In this policy,

- 1 "foreign student" means a student whose parents are citizens of and reside in another country,
- 2 "visiting student" means a foreign student, studying in Alberta. Arrangements for these students to study in Alberta are made by private organizations,
- 3 "exchange student" means a student on a reciprocal exchange program, and
- 4 "reciprocal student exchange program" means one where an Alberta student exchanges places with a student from another country.

PROCEDURES

1 Foreign Student

- (1) A school board may accept a student who does not qualify as a Canadian student under section 8(1)(b) of the **School Act**.
- (2) A school board may decide:
 - (a) not to accept a student including those on a non-reciprocal exchange program;
 - (b) to provide a specific number of free places for foreign students.
- (3) The board may charge the foreign student a tuition fee (See section 49(2) of the **Act**.) or provide a free place for the foreign student.
- (4) A foreign student who has a letter of acceptance from an Alberta school may apply to Canada Immigration for a study permit.
- (5) Alberta Learning does not provide provincial funding to support foreign students.

2 Exchange Student

- (1) School boards are encouraged to provide reciprocal exchange opportunities for students.
- (2) School Boards
 - (a) may claim provincial funding for their resident student-on-exchange if the exchange is approved by the Director, National and International Education;
 - (b) shall not charge a reciprocal student-on-exchange tuition fees.

3 Marketing Program

- (1) School boards wishing to participate in the provincial program for the marketing of educational services to international students shall submit a program plan to the Director, Learning Network.

This program plan will provide information on:

- (a) the program of studies available, including any English as a Second Language classes offered,
 - (b) school and community facilities,
 - (c) the community and its environs,
 - (d) the support system in place for international students,
 - (e) the homestay program arranged by the board,
 - (f) legal requirements such as a contract for services for the parents' signature,
 - (g) the fee structure for international students.
- (2) The Learning Network will:
 - (a) organize promotional activities,
 - (b) accept applications from foreign students,
 - (c) forward each application to a school board offering an appropriate program.
 - (3) The school board will decide whether to accept a student. If the school board chooses to admit the student, the board will issue a letter of acceptance and will forward this to the student so that he/she can apply for a study permit.
 - (4) Participating school boards will pay a fee to cover the cost of the promotional and selection activities.

REFERENCES

Please refer to the current editions of the following for additional information:

Guide to Education

School Act

Alberta International Education Strategy

See Section 7 of the Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual for information on where the above document(s) may be obtained, and for Department / Branch addresses, phone and fax numbers.