

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

Background

The Education Act defines an Independent Student as a student who is

- 1) 18 years of age or older, or
- 2) 16 years of age or older and
 - a) living independently as determined by a board in accordance with section 6, or
 - b) a party to an agreement under section 57.2 of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

An Independent Student is:

- a) Entitled to exercise all the rights and powers as the student's parent or guardian;
- b) Receives all the benefits of the students' parent or guardian and;
- c) Becomes subject to all the obligations of the student's parent or guardian.

Upon confirmation of Independent Student status, the Independent Student's parents or guardians shall not exercise those rights, receive those benefits or be subject to those obligations.

Information regarding an Independent Student can only be shared with parent or guardians with the written consent of the Independent Student.

Procedures

1. Students who are 16 years of age and older, and less than 18 years of age, may apply to their Principal to be recognized as an Independent Student.
 - a) It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the process in order to be declared an Independent Student and to inform the Principal of any change of independent status.
 - b) The student who wishes to be declared an Independent Student will make written application by completing the [Livingstone Range School Division Independent Student Declaration](#).
2. The Independent Student status of the student may be revoked upon written notice from the Principal if the student does not comply with the criteria for Independent Student status.
3. The Principal will determine whether or not the student qualifies as an Independent Student.
4. When determining Independent Student status the Principal will consider the following criteria. None of these criteria alone is a sole indicator of independence, but the response to all of them will assist the Principal in determining whether or not a student is appropriately considered an Independent Student.
 - a) Has the student completed the *Livingstone Range Independent Student Declaration*?

- b) Does the student demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Principal or designate that they make decisions with respect to day-to-day living?
 - c) Does the student earn their own living or substantially contribute to their own maintenance or receive government financial support?
 - d) Does the student handle major decisions such as health care and education?
 - e) Does the student make and maintain arrangements for living accommodation?
 - f) Is the student married or co-habiting?
 - g) Has the student provided supporting documents?
 - h) Are any other factors that the principal considers relevant?
5. The Principal must advise the student in writing of the Principal's decision on the student's application.
 6. If the Principal determines that the student is recognized as an Independent Student, the Principal must ensure that this information is entered into the Student Information System (SIS) and that staff are of aware of the student's status.
 7. If at any time the student no longer meets the criteria for independent status, the student must inform the Principal in writing of the change. The Principal is responsible to ensure that the information is updated in the SIS and that staff are aware of the change.
 8. This form and supporting documents (if required) is to be attached to the [LRSD Student Registration Form](#).

December, 2003

References:

*Section 3,4,6,7,8,9,11,16,31,32,33,36,37,52,53,197,222 Education Act,
Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. C-12, Section 57.2*

Updates: June, 2013; November 2016; January, 2018; January 2020

Forms:

[Independent Living Declaration](#)
[Student Registration Form](#)