# Education Policy – Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education

*Department of Education*

The mission of the Abenaki Council of Odanak (ACO) consists in ensuring the representation of members of the Abenaki Community of Odanak and promoting the preservation of their identity, culture and quality of life.

To do so, the Council seeks to provide quality services for youth, elders and for the entire community, according to the Band's resources.

The Council is committed to transparency and equity in its decisions, while supporting individual and collective autonomy to ensure the Band's future.

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## 1. Objectives pursued by the Council

- Promote, within the limits of available budgets and established rules, the increase in the level of education of the members of the Abenaki First Nation of Odanak;
- Ensure that Odanak members receive the educational services to which they are entitled, while adopting measures that will promote educational success and prevent school dropouts;
- Promote the financing of studies for members who pursue them on an ongoing basis (regular elementary and secondary programs).

## 2. Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education

- The funds are allocated primarily to the financing of preschool (kindergarten 5 years old), elementary and secondary education for members 17 years of age and under registered on the list of the Abenaki of Odanak First Nation (code or status member, according to the various possible financial assistance indicated in section 2.1);

- For preschool education (kindergarten 4 years old), funding is available only to members residing in Odanak.

## 2.1 Financial Assistance

If the code or status member attends a public or private school recognized by the Abenaki Council of Odanak (see Appendix 1 for a list), the following fees are assumed by the Council:

| **Types of fees** | **Member with permanent address: In the Community** |
|---|---|
| Tuition fees charged by the educational institution | X |
| Lunchtime school supervision fee | X |
| Fixed allowance to pay for part of the school equipment and supplies | X |
| Fixed allowance to pay for part of the school clothes | X |
| Fixed stipend in the name of the high school student for miscellaneous expenses | X |

If the code or status member attends a school that is not listed in Appendix 1, but the member resides in Odanak, the following allowances are granted:

| Types of fees | Member with permanent address: In the community |
|---|---|
| Fixed allowance to pay for part of the school equipment and supplies | X |
| Fixed allowance to pay for part of the school clothes | X |
| Fixed stipend in the name of the high school student for miscellaneous expenses | X |

If the status member attends a school that is not listed in Appendix 1 and does not reside in Odanak, the following allowances are granted:

| Types of fees | Member with permanent address: Outside the community |
|---|---|
| Fixed allowance to pay for part of the school equipment and supplies | X |

## 2.2 Procedure to be respected

- For code or status members residing in Odanak:
  - Financial assistance paid from one school year to the next is conditional on the receipt of the previous year's report card. Each year, the education officer sends a letter to parents to indicate the deadline for sending this report card. The child's parent is responsible for sending the report card to the education officer within the prescribed deadlines. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in delays in the payment of financial assistance or its revocation in the event of non-receipt of the report card.

- For status members residing outside the community:
  - Financial assistance from one school year to the next is conditional on the receipt of proof of enrolment indicating the academic level of the member. Each year, the education officer sends a letter to parents to indicate the deadline for sending this information. The child's parent is responsible for forwarding this information to the education officer within the prescribed deadlines. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in delays in the payment of financial assistance or its revocation in the event of non-receipt of the requested information.

## 2.3 Specific assistance measure

For code or status members residing in Odanak, upon request, the service fees of a guidance counsellor (member of the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec) may be paid if the school does not already offer this service.

## 2.4 Student Follow-up

For code or status members residing in Odanak, if necessary, the person in charge of education follows up with the school for preschool, elementary or secondary school members. A confidential academic record is established for each member and includes their transcripts as well as proof that the member is registered on the Abenaki of Odanak First Nation list.

# ANNEX 1

**List of elementary and secondary schools recognized by the Council:**

| **Elementary schools** | **Locations** |
|---|---|
| École Maurault | Pierreville |
| École Vincent-Lemire | Saint-François-du-Lac |
| École Le Rucher | Saint-Sylvère |
| École Paradis | Baie-du-Febvre |

| **High Schools** | **Locations** |
|---|---|
| École secondaire Jean-Nicolet | Nicolet |
| École secondaire La Découverte | Saint-Léonard-d'Aston |
| Collège Notre-Dame de l'Assomption | Nicolet |
| Séminaire St. Joseph | Trois-Rivière |
| Collège St. Bernard | Drummondville |