

**From:**

**Education Deputy Minister** <[EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca)>

Date: Fri, May 27, 2016 at 9:36 AM

Subject: Clarification Regarding Education Grants Regulation

Cc: Darlene Pruden <[Darlene.Pruden@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Darlene.Pruden@gov.ab.ca)>

**To: Superintendents of Public, Separate and Francophone School Authorities,  
Charter and Accredited Private Schools**

Monitoring by Education staff has revealed that some school authorities operating online or regular programs are reimbursing parents approximately \$1,500. I would like to remind schools and school authorities that the *Education Grants Regulation* clearly states that the education grant must be used only for the purpose for which it was intended. The practice of reimbursing parents for student participation in online or regular programs directs funding away from instructional support for student learning. Under the *Education Grants Regulation*, grant funding may be recovered if it is not used for its intended purpose.

If your school or school authority has policies and/or practices in place that reimburse parents for student participation in online or regular learning, please revise these policies and/or end these practices effective August 31, 2016.

The only provision that currently permits school authorities to pay families directly is with regard to home education. As per the *Home Education Regulation*, an associate school authority must offer parents of a home education student not less than 50 per cent of the home education grant for the purchase of instructional materials. The home education grant provided to authorities is \$1,670.81, meaning the reimbursement offered should not be less than \$835. Parents must provide the associate school authority with receipts to show how this funding was spent, as the purpose of this reimbursement is to defray costs associated with the programs of study, instructional materials or other resources related to the home education program.

If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Pruden, Acting Director, Business Operations and Stakeholder Support, at [780-427-7645](tel:780-427-7645) (dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access) or [darlene.pruden@gov.ab.ca](mailto:darlene.pruden@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Curtis Clarke, PhD  
Deputy Minister of Education

cc: Secretary Treasurers  
Communications Contacts at School Divisions