



## POLICIES

Canadian Rockies Public Schools International Student Program operates under the guidance of the following Alberta Learning policies:

***Motivation/Commitment:*** The nature of the international student program requires keen motivation on the part of both student and family, as well as a year-long commitment. Host family members must enthusiastically accept the international student into their home.

***Matching Student and Home Stay:*** Students considering participating in this program must be mature, flexible problem-solvers who are able to compromise.

***Parental Responsibility:*** Under this program, Alberta host parents assume parental responsibility for the international student in their home for the duration of the hosting period. Natural parents are required to sign a consent form to allow the Alberta host parents to make necessary decisions for the student in the event of a medical or other emergency.

Alberta parents must remember their obligation in terms of guardianship of students, and the need for at least one parent (or guardian over the age of twenty-five) to be at home (overnight) during the entire hosting period.

***School:*** Regular, full-time school attendance and maintenance of an acceptable academic performance throughout the year are required under this program. Allowing for an initial linguistic and cultural adjustment period, students are expected to achieve adequately in the host school. Non-attendance, poor achievement or inappropriate behaviour are causes for termination of enrollment. If a student is expelled from school, the student may be required to leave Canada.

***Student/Family Expenses:*** International students pay both home stay fees and tuition fees to Canadian Rockies Public Schools. Participating families agree to provide the student with room and board, that is, a separate bedroom, three wholesome meals a day, as well as adequate parental care and supervision. Either a bag lunch or lunch money must be provided if the student does not come home for lunch.

In addition to tuition fees at school, the international student must cover the cost of “user fees” or incidentals, for example, yearbook, home economics or shop fees, gym clothing, field trip costs or the cost of music lessons. Transportation costs to/from school will be provided by Canadian Rockies Public Schools. The student is responsible for travel to/from Alberta, spending money, and personal expenses, i.e. telephone bills, toiletries, souvenirs, correspondence costs.

**Contact from Home:** Family and friends are strongly discouraged from visiting the student during the school year, especially during the first semester, as this causes a disruption in the continuity of the relationship with the host family, and often a disruption in the language-learning process integral to the program.

**Religion:** The choice of religious practice is left to the student. If religious practice is an important consideration in the family, this must be stated clearly in the application.

**Confidentiality:** Participants can expect personal information to be kept confidential by school officials and Alberta Education. Alberta Education will release personal information about participants only with the consent of the student/parents concerned. Information regarding a student's address and telephone number, or status in a program will not be released without the permission of the student/family concerned.

**Medical Treatment:** Host families agree to treat the student as their own in terms of seeking medical treatment as required. The costs of the medical treatment is paid either by the student or host family at the time of the treatment. Students/natural parents are required to purchase adequate medical insurance coverage for the duration of stay in Alberta. A condition of participation in the program is proof of comprehensive health care coverage throughout the duration of the stay in Alberta.

Please note that some medical treatments require written/fax consent from the natural parents. In cases of pregnancy, the student will return home immediately upon notification of the natural parents for medical, personal and placement considerations.

In the event of any serious physical or psychological problems, which can be more appropriately treated at home with the support and care of the student's own family and in his/her own language, the student will return home as soon as arrangements can be made and he/she is safely able to travel. Any necessary supervision will be organized with the student's parents.

**Student Travel:** While student are participating in this program, any travel plans must be approved by school officials. The school jurisdiction may permit a student to travel is there is:

- notification prior to the travel;
- assurance of student safety;
- knowledge of the plans/location of the student;
- no interference with school attendance.

Student's unsupervised travel in Alberta/Canada or the USA will not be approved. The host family is responsible for the student during the entire hosting period. Students who wish to enter the USA from Canada may require a visa.

**Dangerous Activities:** School authorities reserve the right to withhold authorization for any activity deemed to be dangerous: for example, hang gliding, parachute jumping,

piloting a private plane, bungee jumping. Upon notification in writing, activities which involve an element of danger will be considered in consultation with both natural parents and host family, for example, mountain climbing, white-water rafting. If agreed upon, the written permission of both families must be on file before the activity is undertaken.

**Driving:** International students are not permitted to drive any motorized vehicles in Alberta. This includes cars, motorcycles, mopeds, trail bikes, skidoos, or farm equipment. International students are permitted to participate in Driver's Education classes in Alberta provided a signed authorization is received from the student's natural parents.

**Smoking:** For placement purposes, it is important to indicate on the application form whether or not the student smokes. If a student begins to smoke during the hosting period, the family's expectations and regulations regarding smoking must be respected and obeyed.

**Alcohol and Drugs:** Use of alcohol and drugs by students participating in the program is strictly prohibited and will result in termination of the student's participation in this program. Return travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or his or her parents.

If a student is placed in a home where it is found the members of the host family abuse alcohol or use an illegal substance, the student will be moved and placed with a new family.

**Criminal Prosecution:** Students who are attending school in Alberta are subject to the laws of this province. If an international student is charged with a criminal offence, the student's participation in the program may be terminated.

Once charges have been laid, the student will most likely face criminal proceedings. International students should note that if a student is convicted, he/she will be sentenced according to the laws of Canada.

If the authorities decide not to proceed with the charges, participation in the program may still be terminated. Criminal charges may prevent the student from ever returning to Canada.

National and International Education must be informed immediately of any illegal activities.

**Employment:** International students are not allowed any type of employment as a condition of the student authorization. Any violation may result in Canada Immigration cancelling the student authorization (visa).

**Extension of Stay:** International students in Alberta should note that staying beyond the program period is a violation of the student authorization. Canadian Rockies Public Schools has no further obligation to provide tuition or accommodation after the program's termination on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Students wishing to extend their stay must have approval from Canada Immigration.

**Change of Schools:** Student authorizations are issued for a specific school. International students are not permitted to change schools in Canada without approval from Canada Immigration. Any student considering changing schools must advise Alberta Education of the circumstances causing the student to take this action. If a student wants to change schools, he/she must obtain a letter of acceptance from the new school and must produce this letter when requesting Canada Immigration to modify the student authorization. When students change schools, Alberta school jurisdictions may not provide a refund of tuition fees.

**Withdrawals/Off Program:** Students who have the drive and desire to follow through until the end of the academic term, regardless of the difficulties encountered, can expect to have a successful international study experience. If the student/family chooses to withdraw from the program prematurely, e.g., due to personality conflicts, adjustment problems, the cost of any return travel is the responsibility of the participating student/family.

If the student fails to make satisfactory progress, is absent from the host school, family or other designated place, for example, program activity sites, with the approval of school officials, or displays uncooperative behaviour at school or in the home, the school may cancel the student's enrollment.

Should the student fail to comply and stay in Alberta/Canada despite termination of the program, he/she is considered "off program." Canadian Rockies Public Schools will immediately notify the natural parents/guardians and Canada Immigration officials of program termination.

Canadian Rockies Public Schools reserves the right to terminate the international student's participation for infractions of program policies and will require the student or the student's parents to pay for the student's return travel expenses and associated costs.

Canadian Rockies Public Schools assumes no legal responsibility for the actions, debts, expenses, safety, or health of the students participating in this program.