Administrative Procedure 303

Students

INDEPENDENT STUDENT

Background

Under the Education Act, students who are 18 years of age or older, or 16 years of age or older and living independently or who are a party to an agreement under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, are independent students.

The Education Act says that an independent student is intitled to exercise all the rights and powers and receive all the benefits and is subject to all the obligations under the Education Act that the student's parent is entitled to exercise or receive or is subject to those obligations, and the student's parent shall not exercise those rights, receive those benefits or be subject to those obligations.

This administrative procedure sets out the process for establishing independent student status at STEM Collegiate.

Definition:

1. In this administrative procedure "independent student" means a student who is
    a. 18 years of age or older; or
    b. 16 years of age or older and who in the opinion of the principal is living independently, or is party to an agreement under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act.
2. In this administrative procedure "age of majority" means 18 years of age.
    a. Under the Age of Majority Act every person attains the age of majority and ceases to be a minor on attaining the age of 18 years.

Procedures

1. A student who is between 16 and 18 years of age and wishes to establish independent student status must notify the principal in writing of the request to be considered an independent student.
2. To determine independent student status, the principal must consider the following

criteria:

2.1. Have the student's parents or the student provided a statement in writing or a statutory declaration that the student is independent?

2.2. Does the student demonstrate to the satisfaction of the principal that they make decisions with respect to day-to-day living?

2.3. Does the student earn their own living or substantially contribute to their own maintenance or receive government financial support?

2.4. Does the student handle major decisions such as medical treatment?

2.5. Does the student make and maintain arrangements for living accommodations?

2.6. Is the student married or co-habiting?

2.7. Are there any other factors that the principal considers relevant?

3. None of these criteria alone is an indicator of independence, but the response to all of them will assist the principal in determining whether a student is appropriately considered an independent student.

4. If the principal determines that the criteria are not met, the principal must advise the parents and the student in writing of the principal's decision.

5. If the principal determines that the criteria are met, then the student is recognized as an independent student and the principal must ensure that this information is entered into the Student Information System used by the school.

5.1. If the student no longer meets the criteria for independent status, the student and parent must inform the principal in writing of the change.

5.2. When the principal receives the notice that the student no longer has independent status the principal must ensure that this information is entered into the Student Information System used by the school.

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