

Frequently Asked Questions

International Students Applying to Halton District School Board

Please refer to our website at www.hdsb.ca or for more information contact Karen Stephens at 905-335-3663 Ext.3435.

1. How can I find out which schools are accepting international students?

The application, school report cards, student's identification and the administration fee must be received first. Each application is looked at individually.

2. Can I send the application directly to the school?

No. Applications for international students are coordinated through Karen Stephens, Executive Assistant / International & Visa Coordinator, at 905-335-3663 Ext. 3435. Please direct the application and all enquires to Karen.

3. How long does it take to receive a reply and the Letter of Acceptance?

The school Principal will decide if the school is able to accept the student. The Principal must consider factors such as current class sizes, forecasted enrollments, staffing levels, physical space and report card standing.

Various factors may delay a quick response. Our goal is to respond as quickly as possible but this initial step may take as long as three weeks.

4. What is the deadline for submitting an application?

The deadline for Elementary and Secondary applicants is end of May for a September start and mid November for a January start for elementary and mid November for a February start for secondary.

5. When do the tuition fees need to be paid?

Tuition fees must be paid in full prior to the release of the Letter of Acceptance.

6. Can the tuition fee be paid in two installments?

No. The full tuition amount must be paid in one installment by certified cheque or money order or direct deposit or visa payment. Please make payable to the Halton District School Board. The only exception is when the student is accepted for a full year: starting in January or February and continuing into the next school year.

7. Is it possible for a student to attend for one semester only?

Yes, it is possible. However, accommodation may be limited, especially for elementary grades.

8. Can an international student go to a school, which is outside the school boundary area?

Yes, a fee-paying international student can live outside the school boundary as long as the distance is reasonable. Please discuss individual cases with Karen Stephens. A family that is here under terms of having applied for Permanent Residence must attend the school that is within the boundary area for their address.

9. Can international students take the school bus?

Transportation is not provided for fee-paying students. Parents/custodian or home stay parents must be prepared to drive the student to and from school.

10. What happens if the family's application for Permanent Residence is denied, withdrawn or not completed?

The family must pay tuition fees in full. This will mean paying tuition fees retroactively to the beginning of the semester in which notification from Citizenship and Immigration Canada was given.

11. Can a fee-paying student ask to go to a different school other than the school that accepted the student?

This may be possible but should not be expected. The family needs to plan in advance to live in the area of the school. The request for a change must be directed to Karen Stephens. A \$100.00 change fee will be applied.

12. Does the Halton School Board provide Home Stay arrangements?

No. However, our experience is that the home stay plays a crucial role in the well-being of the student. Students are accepted on the basis that they remain in "good standing." A well-balanced and caring home stay can help make the difference.

13. Does the Halton School Board provide health insurance?

No. The family must provide proof that the student has adequate health insurance prior to registration.

14. Can an international student enter school in the middle of a semester?

A fee paying student can start the beginning of January for elementary or February for secondary. This coincides with each semester. An international student who is living with his/her family in Canada at the time of application and has applied for Permanent Residence may begin classes mid semester. A discussion with the School Principal or Guidance Department usually takes place prior to beginning classes.

15. What happens if the family isn't sure if the student needs ESL?

The school will do an ESL assessment. Please note, that the Halton School Board reserves the right to use its discretion in the final placement of the student