

S-216 EDUCATION AND LEARNING



In this document, the non implicit gender applies to both men and women.

Version 2 effective March 31, 2008

(previously SE-18)

Policy

Education is a major key to success for young people becoming independent adults who contribute fully to their community. Nowadays, obtaining a postsecondary diploma is essential to opening all kinds of doors and finding a good job. Valoris must provide all necessary support and services to children and youths to help them overcome difficulties at school, continue attending the same school, develop their full potential and especially succeed in their studies. Valoris strongly encourages Child Welfare Workers, foster parents and young people themselves to set high expectations as regards education. The foster parents or the Child Welfare Worker must contact the child's teacher and/or principal each term to monitor his progress and identify problems.

Valoris recognizes the importance of supporting placed children during their studies, particularly at the postsecondary level. Keeping children in the same school should be a priority when choosing a foster family or moving a child. Agency staff must clearly represent children's needs and interests to school authorities so they are put in school programs that match their aptitudes and abilities and help them develop their full potential.

Students who show aptitude and interest must be strongly encouraged to undertake and complete their postsecondary studies. In the case of wards of the Crown, the Agency may help support them financially until they reach the age of 21 and, in some situations, until they are 24.

Procedure

1. Involvement of the parents - Voluntary agreements and Society wardship

Child Welfare Workers must encourage parents to take an interest in and participate in their children's education.

Staff must not move children from one school board to another, from a Catholic school to a public school or from a Francophone school to an Anglophone school without their parents' consent.

2. School progress and performance

A child's welfare worker and/or foster parents must contact his teacher regularly to discuss his performance and progress. It is desirable for the foster parents to attend parent/teacher meetings held during each of the two school terms.

3. School supplies, books and magazines

Foster parents and Child Welfare Workers must ensure that children have all the school supplies - dictionaries, books, computer software, etc. - they need to succeed.

They are urged to have children registered at the municipal library, encourage them to read, read them stories and give them books as gifts. Children placed long term may be encouraged to subscribe to magazines and periodicals, the cost of which will be reimbursed by the Agency. At Christmas and on their birthdays, foster parents should buy a book or subscription for placed children in addition to a gift. Upon presentation of receipts, Valoris will reimburse any costs related to those purchases. Child Welfare Workers are responsible for ensuring that children have enough books or access to books.

4. Tutoring

Children who are lagging behind in their studies or having difficulties at school must receive supplementary and individual help from a tutor or other resource in collaboration with school or other authorities. Valoris will cover the cost of tutoring authorized by a supervisor. When a child receives tutoring services paid for by the Agency, he must complete an electronic request form for supplementary support services dated in the first month of tutoring to indicate the start of this supplementary support service. When tutoring ends, the Child Welfare Worker must close the supplementary support services by completing the required electronic form dated the last day of the month in which the service ceased.

5. Special needs - IPR Committee

Children's welfare workers and foster parents must attend all Identification of Placement and Resources (IPR) committee meetings to properly represent their needs and interests. Children must be placed in a regular class whenever possible.

If a Child Welfare Worker does not agree with an IPR Committee decision, he must advise his supervisor and begin the procedure for appealing that decision.

6. Student transportation

School boards are normally responsible for transporting students.

Valoris may temporarily pay the cost of transporting a child for up to six weeks to ensure school continuity when he is being admitted or moved. This expenditure must be approved by a supervisor.

7. Suspension/withdrawal

Foster parents must advise the Child Welfare Worker when a child/youth is suspended from school. They are responsible for drawing up a plan for adequately supervising him during the suspension period and advising the Child Welfare Worker of this.

When the foster parents cannot come up with an acceptable plan for supervising the child/youth, they must advise the Child Welfare Worker, who may help them find a solution.

When a child/youth is suspended, the foster parents or the Child Welfare Worker must request an official letter from the school confirming the suspension and the reasons for it. This letter must be placed in the child's file.

In repeated suspensions situations that negatively impact the foster parents' routine, Valoris will offer them support services.

The Child Welfare Worker must meet with the school authorities to prepare a return to school plan. Consequences for the student must be envisaged.

8. Youths who leave school permanently

Youths over 18 who refuse to attend school or who have been suspended from school indefinitely must look for a job or be working. Job search and support services may be offered to them.

9. Postsecondary studies

9.1. Student's contribution

Valoris will pay tuition costs for young persons who are wards of the Crown. However, their Child Welfare Worker, in collaboration with their foster parents and the supervisor, may assess their ability to contribute to their own financial support, taking available scholarships and income from summer and part-time jobs during the school year into consideration.

A student who leaves school during a semester or who fails because of a lack of effort and application must pay his own tuition for the next session. If he makes an effort and passes the next session, Valoris may pay for the succeeding sessions and even reimburse him for the last session he paid for himself.

9.2. Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships and will be supported in doing this. A Child Welfare Worker may provide a student a letter attesting that he is a permanent ward or a former permanent ward. When a young person receives a scholarship, he shall contribute to the purchase of school books and supplies and may keep the balance for himself.

9.3. Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell scholarships

Students may apply for a Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell scholarship as described in the Scholarship program annexed.

10. Documentation

At the end of the school year, the team assistant shall ask for a report card for each child. Annual report cards and other school documentation and IPR placement shall be initialled by the Child Welfare Worker and the supervisor and placed in the child's file.

Definitions, annexes and references

Definition

Parents: Includes biological parents, adoptive parents, step-mother, step-father or all other persons responsible for the child previous to Valoris' involvement.

Annex

- Annual school report card
- Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell scholarship program

References

Licensing Manual for Foster Homes, 2012 edition, Child and Family Services Act (CFSA)



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For the purpose of simplifying the text in this document, the non implicit gender applies to all persons.

Preamble

Children who come into the care of Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell (Valoris) are experiencing serious disadvantages that constitute major long-term challenges to overcome. Therefore, it is not surprising to state that children raised by a Children's Aid Society are particularly susceptible to difficult adult lives, often dropping out of school and being unemployed. Nevertheless, a considerable number of young people manage to transcend their experiences, get post-secondary education, and find success in the work place. These successes, of course, are supported by the foster families and Valoris stakeholders who are always looking out for the best interests of these children.

Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell wants to acknowledge their special responsibility to be a good parent to those children who are under their guardianship. To compensate for the disadvantages they have experienced, Valoris wants to encourage these young people to get a post-secondary education by setting up a scholarship program. This program will be able to offer a young person up to three (3) years support when this person shows an aptitude for post-secondary studies and sufficient perseverance to pursue them.

Scholarships worth \$1,500 each to deserving students

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Being in care or having been in care of Valoris;
2. Being 17 years of age or older;
3. Having completed secondary school;
4. Planning to attend a post-secondary institution or being registered in a recognized specialized program for the school year for which the scholarship is awarded.

Application Process:

The following documents must accompany the application:

1. A photocopy of the student's transcript and a copy of the mid-term and final report cards for the current year;
2. A 750 word essay, in English or French, explaining the applicant's study plans and career objectives;

3. A written recommendation from a teacher, guidance counsellor, or the school administration from the student's last school year, attesting to the student's aptitude for post-secondary education. This text must be typewritten;
4. Scholarship applications must reach the Valoris Foundation office no later than June 30th, each year.
5. Documentation must be sent to the attention of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fundraising and Charity Committee at:
Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell
Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 248
Plantagenet Ontario K0B 1L0

Selection Process

1. The Selection Committee will study the applications and will make its recommendations to the Fundraising and Charity Committee of the Valoris Foundation for Prescott-Russell at its September meeting.
2. The Committee will choose the scholarship recipients according to the following criteria:
 - i) Academic record,
 - ii) Recommendation in support of candidacy,
 - iii) Viability of study plan.
3. The Fundraising and Charity Committee will announce the scholarship awards in the fall each year.

Scholarships will be awarded on the following basis:

Half the scholarship will be paid in September of the year in which the recipient commences his post-secondary studies, as soon as the Foundation receives confirmation of registration.

The second instalment will be paid as soon as the first semester report card is received, demonstrating that the student in question has been successful and proof of enrolment in the second semester.

Scholarship winners may apply each year as long as they succeed academically and there are no more recipients than the maximum for that year. No recipient may receive a scholarship more than three (3) times.

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Reviewed and approved by the Prescott-Russell Services to Children and Adults Foundation, February 22, 1996

Revised August 7, 2001 (name change from SAEPR to SEAPR)

Revised by the Prescott-Russell Services to Children and Adults Foundation, August 11, 2004

Revised by the Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell (name change and change of due date)

Revised by the Valoris Foundation of Prescott-Russell (increase of scholarship, July 7, 2014)

Revised by Édith Landriault (update of terminology), August 8, 2018