Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
K-8 Education Policy

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ("FMYN") wishes to provide support for Tribal member students to succeed academically and to provide increased opportunity for those students to participate in school activities and other enrichment activities by contributing to certain expenses incurred as outlined in this policy. The FMYN encourages and rewards student success through incentives.

Qualifications for Financial Assistance

1. Applicant shall be a legally enrolled member of the FMYN. Under this policy "applicant" shall mean Tribal member student.
2. Student shall be enrolled in an accredited school that takes daily attendance. Under this policy "accredited" shall mean an educational institution serving students from Kindergarten through 8th grade that is accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, its regional equivalent, or is recognized by the Arizona State Board of Education.

Reimbursement and Direct Payment Option

All expenses will be reimbursed upon successful completion of the activity or program. A direct payment option is available in cases of financial need or special circumstance. Tribal members may request that the Nation make a direct payment to the vendor or school by filling out an application (Academic and Enrichment Program Assistance/Application and Promissory Agreement). The request must be approved by the Education Division Director before payment is made. If a direct payment is made on behalf of an applicant and the applicant fails to complete the educational program or activity the parent/guardian must repay FMYN the fees paid to the vendor or school. **If a student fails to complete a program or activity that the Nation has paid for on two (2) separate occasions, the student will no longer be eligible for financial assistance through this program for one calendar year.**

Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

Eligible expenses must be approved by the Education Division Director. Only expenses listed below will be considered for reimbursement. Expenses such as daily classroom supplies, paper, pencils, notebooks, calculators, computers, class trips, uniforms, and transportation are not eligible.

Eligible expenses are limited to the following:

1. ***Summer school classes.*** FMYN will reimburse 100% of the cost of summer school classes in credit-earning academic subjects. Parent/guardian must provide an official receipt from the school showing payment and a transcript or other official school document showing the student has successfully passed the class and has an earned credit before reimbursement is made. Reimbursement will not be made if the student does not pass the class.

2. ***Enrichment and activity fees.*** FMYN will reimburse the following percentages of the cost of enrichment classes and activity fees as follows:

    a. 100% - sports and physical education within the school curriculum (cost of uniforms is excluded)
    b. 100% - summer school enrichment non-academic, non-graded classes such as art, music, special creative projects, and so forth that foster children's creativity and emotional, social, mental, and physical development
    c. 100% - specific Boys & Girls Clubs programs (does not include all-day child care)
    d. 100% - science lab fees (cost of supplies are excluded)

3. ***Tutoring services.*** FMYN will pay 50% of the tutoring tuition. The tutoring service must be provided by a professional agency that provides special tutoring in math, reading, language arts, science, and social studies. FMYN will also pay 50% of tutoring fees to prepare for SAT and ACT testing – one time only for each test during a student's schooling up to high school graduation. FMYN will not pay for the fees levied to take the tests. Parent/guardian must request approval for tutoring services from the Education Division Director prior to enrolling the student. FMYN will then submit payment for the 50% directly to the tutoring service. *The G.P.A. of at least 2.4 required to qualify for assistance under this policy is waived ONLY for tutoring services.

4. ***Musical instrument rental.*** FMYN will reimburse 100% of rental of musical instruments and insurance (covering damage to or loss of the instrument) for a student taking band or instrument instruction as part of a school elective. Late fees will not be reimbursed. This will be on a cost reimbursement basis every six (6) months. Parents/guardians must provide proof of completion and submit payment receipts every six (6) months. Parents/guardians must provide proof of completion and submit payment receipts every six (6) months. **Parent/guardian must request approval from the Education Division Director prior to renting the instrument.** Failure to do so will deny reimbursement.

   The parent/guardian may request that FMYN pay the rental company directly by filling out the Academic and Enrichment Program Assistance/Application and Promissory Agreement. **The request must be approved by the Education Division Director prior to renting the instrument.**

Requirements

1. Students must remain in good academic standing as defined by having a G.P.A. of at least 2.4, have no out-of-school suspensions, meet good attendance standing per the FMYN Truancy Ordinance, and be in good financial standing with the school.
2. Parent/legal guardian will provide a signed Authorization for Disclosure form and any other documentation and information as required by the Education Division to verify enrollment, actual costs, and academic performance.
3. One (1) year time limit. Request for reimbursement must be submitted with required documentation described herein within one (1) year from the time the expense was incurred and include proof of successful completion of the activity. Expenses incurred before the one-year time period will not be reimbursed.

Incentives

Incentives for academic achievement and good attendance will be awarded once each year at the annual Education Awards event as follows:

Top Student at Grade Level	**Trophy**
****Gold Award*** 3.5-4.0 GPA for the school year	Gold Medal
****Silver Award*** 3.0-3.49 GPA for the school year	Silver Medal

***Bronze Award** Bronze Medal
2.5-2.99 GPA for the school year

***Eagle Award** Certificate
For a student who improves his/her overall grade point average 0.5 from the previous year

***Turquoise Award** Certificate
For a student who is improving and does not qualify for the awards above. If the student's average overall GPA for the 1st semester shows an improvement of a minimum of 0.3 above the previous semester overall GPA, the student qualifies for this award.

***Perfect Attendance** $100.00
No absences and fewer than 5 tardies
For the entire school year

***Outstanding Attendance** $ 50.00
1 absence or 1 occurrence and fewer
Than 5 tardies for the entire school year

*These awards are available to non-tribal and community members who have a signed Authorization for Disclosure form on file with the Education Division.

FMYN financial assistance for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade is offered at the discretion of the FMYN and may be denied for any individual student. Decisions by the Education Division Director to deny financial assistance may be appealed to the FMYN Education Board. Decisions by the FMYN Education Board may be appealed to the Tribal Council.

CERTIFICATION

This Policy has been approved on the 4th day of November, 2013 by the Tribal Council. Tribal Council Resolution, Ft. McD. No. 2013-75.

Ruben Balderas, President
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation