2026 - 2027 CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GRANT

SUMMARY OF THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) are pleased to announce grants that support family and parental engagement in education.

Families and parents play a crucial role in the education of their children. They …

- are their children's first and most important teachers.
- are the primary shapers of their children's social skills.
- are fundamental to children developing self-confidence and a positive self-identity.
- transmit their values and culture to their children, which is vital for students' success.

Overview of the Grants

$10,583 is available for each First Nation. We encourage you to partner with your school, if relevant, to better support students and use the funding together.

These grants can help First Nations make use of new resources that have been created to support parental engagement.

- A Revised Toolkit for First Nations Parents and Families:
  LINK

- An Implementation Guide to Accompany the Toolkit for First Nations and Families:
  LINK

- Fun Activities for Learning Together at Home:
  LINK

Eligible Participants

The activities funded using these grants can support families whose students attend a First Nation, public or independent school.

Eligible Expenditures

- Consulting fees / fees for presenters or experts
- Honoraria for Elders or knowledge keepers
- Gifts for volunteers, including family or student volunteers
- Costs of hosting a meeting / information sharing session (facilities, catering)
- Rental fees related to hosting learning opportunities
- Materials, supplies, books, home learning kits, educational toys for families to use, etc.
- Attendance incentive costs
- Meals and snacks for activity participants
- Transportation costs to bring families to a community-based learning opportunity, or for a field trip to a nearby library, museum, cultural site, etc.
- Computers or technology equipment directly related to program implementation

Ineligible Expenditures

- Capital expenses (purchasing transportation or a site, expanding or renovating a learning site, etc.)
- Purchase of furniture or major information technology (e.g. servers etc.)

Accessing the Grants

In order to access this grant, First Nations are asked to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) using the Template Letter of Interest. Please submit your completed Letter of Interest by email to soniao@fnesc.ca **by Monday, November 23rd, 2026.**

A Zoom information session will be hosted to answer questions and facilitate the sharing of ideas.

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026, at 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Anyone requiring further information is also welcome to contact programs@fnesc.ca

Additional Important Notes:

- First Nations are encouraged to supplement this funding grant with other financial resources, if appropriate.
- You can use this funding for one or more of the activities described in this information package.
- No long-term funding has been identified for this initiative. We are not able to commit funds for multi-year plans.
- All Letters of Intent require a signature confirming endorsement from the First Nation (such as the Education Director / Coordinator, Band Manager, or Chief or Councillor).
- The Family Engagement Grant Final Report is due **March 31st, 2027.**

Please see Appendix One of this document for more information about suggested activities to be funded using these grants.

LETTERS OF INTENT ARE DUE BY **November 23rd, 2026**

Completed Letters of Intent can be emailed to: **soniao@fnesc.ca**

Final Reports are Due: **Wednesday, March 31st, 2027.**

Appendix One
Suggested Activities To Be Funded
Using the Family Engagement Grants

1. Hosting Family Language, Culture and On-the -Land Activities

Exciting opportunities might include local land-based activities or field trips / camps on the territory. Other opportunities might involve:

- Holding family language lessons, providing dinner and language learning resources for families to take home, possibly with language speakers and cultural experts invited to share their knowledge.
- Hosting family regalia making nights, traditional arts and crafts sessions, a family Truth and Reconciliation Day assembly and luncheon, a National Indigenous Day celebration, etc. … ideally organized with or even by students!

Possible expenses

- Space rental
- Meals / catering
- Prizes for participants
- Gifts for volunteers, including students
- Fees or honoraria for presenters / organizers
- Required materials / books / supplies

2. Recognize Families and the Importance of their Involvement

Parent groups, community education staff, and school staff can find ways to provide positive reinforcement to parents.

- Creating post-cards / note cards to send home with thanks and encouraging messages – perhaps using students' artwork to create inviting cards.
- Printing banners or posters with encouraging messages.
- Purchasing bulletin boards to post messages for parents.

Possible expenses

- Desk top publishing / printing
- Materials / supplies

3. Hosting Gatherings to Welcome Parents into the School

Parent groups and schools can arrange fun and stress-free opportunities for parents to come into the school. Welcoming events can be a chance for parents to see their children in the school environment, and for children to see that their families feel welcome and comfortable in the school.

The Toolkit for First Nations Parents and Families, and the accompanying Implementation Guide, include ideas for hosting:

- Family fun nights / game nights
- Breakfasts / lunches / dinners with families

Possible expenses

- Space rental
- Meals / catering
- Prizes for participants
- Materials / books / supplies

Example: Host an evening session to promote the importance of nightly routines for adequate sleep. You might purchase light refreshments, gift cards for families to buy fun pajamas or slippers, prizes like alarm clocks, books for bedtime reading …

4. Hosting Information Sessions

The Toolkit for First Nations Parents and Families, and the accompanying Implementation Guide, include ideas for hosting sessions for discussions about …

- Attendance
- First Nations education rights
- How to work with schools
- Career and education planning
- Supporting students who have exceptionalities
- Understanding technology issues

Possible expenses

- Space rental
- Meals / catering
- Prizes for participants
- Fees or honoraria for presenters / organizers
- Required materials / books / supplies

5. Starting a Family Resource Centre / Gathering Space

If possible, create or enhance a family resource center, where families can access a variety of information. This could be a space in a community building or in a school.

- Provide comfortable chairs and possibly coffee or tea supplies, etc.
- Make available parenting magazines, pamphlets from relevant support service agencies, educational games to borrow, or books to borrow and read at home.
- Community education staff and/or school staff can drop into the center to chat with families and encourage their invaluable efforts to support their children
- Parents can meet and speak with each other to share their experiences and advice. Parenting isn't easy. Talking with others is an important way to help.

Possible expenses

- Furnishings for the gathering space
- Coffee / tea supplies etc.
- Possibly a small fridge
- Resources for sharing

6. Involving Families in Student Attendance Campaigns

Attendance is a serious concern that is best addressed cooperatively. What can be done?

- Family incentive programs.
- Information sharing evenings to promote awareness raising and input from families.
- Sharing materials to promote attention to attendance, such as t-shirts, lawn signs, posters to display in school and community spaces …

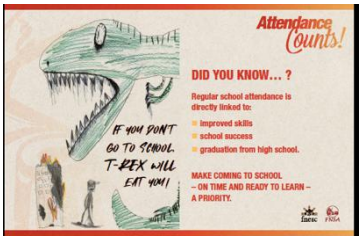
Possible expenses

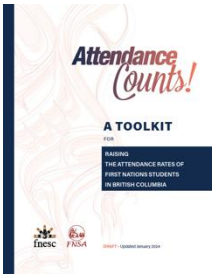
- Costs of attendance meetings, such as rental, catering, etc.
- Incentives / products to build enthusiasm for attendance
- Materials, supplies, printing, production of resources …

FNESC has resources to help:

- Attendance Trackers

- Artwork to produce resources – cards, posters, etc. (contact us for more)
- Attendance Counts: a Toolkit for planning attendance campaigns
- Attendance Counts: An Information Guide for Parents





7. Supporting Home / Family Learning Opportunities

- Host a family book club. Family and student volunteers can organize fun opportunities to promote family reading.
- FNESC and FNSA have created a guide to Fun Activities For Learning Together At Home, to share ideas for learning opportunities families can enjoy together outside of school. See www.fnsa.ca for a copy. You could purchase things to help parents implement the activities in the guide, which could be available for all families or for loan.
  - ✓ Books and paper for building paper airplanes
  - ✓ Nice notebooks and pencil crayons, gel pens, markers etc. for activities that involve writing / creating art
  - ✓ Toy clocks or cardboard clocks for children to learn about time (e.g. there are inexpensive writable dry erase learning clocks, clock puzzles, toy clocks …)
  - ✓ Toys and books for children to learn to tie their shoelaces (e.g. books with instructions and laces built right in … look on the internet for all different types)

- ✓ Measuring cups and spoons
- ✓ Playing cards and board games
- ✓ Puzzles, beading kits, lacing cards

Possible expenses

- Costs of materials, printing etc.
- Transportation to a library or other relevant place
- Honoraria or gifts for volunteers
- Home learning supplies

We encourage you to get creative and have fun!

And please send us a description of your activities and photos we can share,

to continue promoting the value of family engagement in education.