



## INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

### Background

Golden Hills School Division recognizes that independent students will have all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of parents as outlined in the *Education Act*.

### Definitions

The Education Act defines an Independent Student as a student who is:

- i) 18 years of age or older, or
- ii) 16 years of age or older and
  - a. Who is living independently, or
  - b. Who is a party to an agreement under section 57.2 of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act

### Procedures

1. Students who turn 18 years old during the school year must be recognized and treated as an Independent Student from the date of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. Independent Students may provide written consent for the release of Independent Student information to their parent(s)/guardian(s). Students who turn 18 years of age in a particular month, along with their parents, will be informed of their new status. Students will be given the opportunity to consider signing **Form 303-1**.
3. Students over the age of sixteen years shall be accorded independent status at their school should:
  - 3.1 The parents provide statutory declaration saying their child is independent; OR
  - 3.2 The student provides proof that they can support their own maintenance and make decisions with respect to their day to day living.
4. Students shall be accorded independent status at their school should the student present documentation under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* or the *Social Development Act* verifying their independent status provided that they are over sixteen years of age.
5. The only exception to the above is if a guardian or trustee has been appointed for the student under the *Adult Guardianship and Trustee Act*. In this situation, the adult student does not need to give written consent as the guardian or trustee would have the rights, power and duties.

### References:

- [Education Act, S.A. 2012, E. O.3](#) S-3, S. 3, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 30, 44, 45, 60, 61, 113
- Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act
- Adult Guardianship and Trustee Act