

## Winter Newsletter, February 2015



### School Community Relations Division Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department

#### Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

We are half way through the school year!

The Winter Newsletter shares some important information. Feel free to call or email your questions or concerns. We are here to help!

A few reminders:

- \* **Pre K-12 Grant Applications take 3-6 weeks to process.** This countdown starts once all paperwork has been submitted.
- \* **Pre K-12 Grant Applications** are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The Fiscal Year Deadline is June 15; however the program has a set budget. This means once the funds are gone, no other requests can be processed.
- \* **Computer Requests** will be verified with the parents. Once the order is verified the process will take 3-6 weeks. The order can either be shipped or picked up.
- \* **Alternative/Online Schools** do not always fulfill the Trust Fund requirement. Please read more about what to look out for on page 3.

Sincerely,

Nehomah Thundercloud, ext. 1030  
School Community Relations Division Manager  
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#### Our Mission Statement

The Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department's **School Community Relations Division** shall assist Native American students and their families to access programs and services provided by their local school districts, Ho-Chunk Nation, and/or Johnson O'Malley to promote academic excellence and perpetuate and preserve the cultural values, history, and language. In doing so, the School Community Relations Division shall safeguard the interests of the students, families, and communities.



#### Upcoming Events

##### January/February District Meetings

Higher Education and School Community Relations will attend HCN District Meetings to provide information

##### ACT Test Date / Register by Date

April 18 / March 13  
June 13 / May 8

##### March 29-31, 2015

Nat'l Johnson-O'Malley Association Conference, Portland, OR

##### April 10-11, 2015

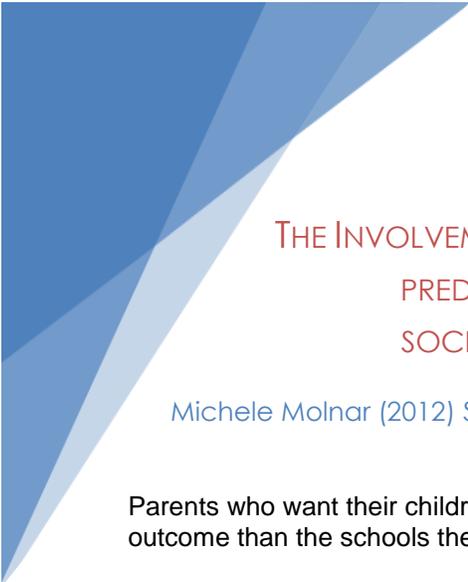
WI Indian Education Assoc. Conf. Milwaukee, WI

##### June 15, 2015

Submission Deadline for Pre K-12 Grants

##### June 19-21, 2015

Family Enrichment Weekend Wausau, WI



THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IS MORE PREDICTIVE OF STUDENTS' SCHOOL SUCCESS THAN THE FAMILIES' SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, RACE, OR CULTURAL BACKGROUND.

Michele Molnar (2012) Study: Parents More Influential Than Schools in Academic Success

Parents who want their children to succeed academically in school have more influence over that outcome than the schools themselves, according to a study by researchers from three universities.

"The effort that parents are putting in at home in terms of checking homework, reinforcing the importance of school, and stressing the importance of academic achievement is ultimately very important to their children's academic achievement," Dr. Toby Parcel, professor of sociology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. and a co-author of the study, told Education Week.

To arrive at their findings, researchers used the National Education Longitudinal Study data to evaluate social capital at home and at school. Parcel said her group evaluated results from 10,000 12<sup>th</sup> graders, taking into account their composite test scores on math, reading, science, and history to measure achievement levels.

Researchers compared measures of "family social capital" and "school social capital," discovering that even in schools that had low social capital, students were more likely to excel if their family social capital scores were high.

**Measures of family social capital included:**

- Does the parent check the student's homework?
- Does the parent attend school meetings?
- Does the parent attend school events?
- How much trust does the parent have in the child?
- How often do students report discussing school programs, activities, and classes with parents?

"In part what's going on is that, when the children's parents are engaged in those ways, then the children pick up on that. They think, 'School is important. My parents think it's important,' and that increases their attachment to education, which translates into better achievement," Parcel said.

**To measure school social capital, which is defined as a school's ability to serve as a positive environment for learning, the researchers evaluated:**

- Student participation in extracurricular activities
- Whether the school contacted parents
- The level of teacher moral
- The level of conflict between teachers and administrators
- Whether teachers responded to individual student needs
- An overall measure of school environment that tapped delinquency, absenteeism, and violence

## PreK-12 Grant Deadlines for High School Students & Seniors

### College Visit Grant (CVG):

Student must utilize the College Preparatory Expense (CPE) grant before the CVG

- The grant specifies it is for Jrs and Srs registered for the ACT test.
- Receipts must be detailed
- Reimbursements for College Visit Grant are for students only, not for parents or siblings etc.

**High School Graduation Reimbursement:** APPLICATIONS need to be turned in to Pre K-12 Program BEFORE student graduates.

- Supporting documents (transcript, diploma) can be turned in after graduation.
- Pendleton blankets are available 3 months after student graduates.

**JOM IECs with  
Graduation Events:**

**Be sure to plan these  
before students  
graduate. Once they  
graduate they are  
not eligible for  
services.**

### **Alternative or Online High School Programs**

It is important to do your homework when deciding to attend a non-traditional high school program. In order to receive the Ho-Chunk Nation Trust Fund, the young tribal member must "produce evidence of personal acquisition of a high school diploma to the Department of Enrollment (HSED, GED or any similar substitute shall not be acceptable)."

When the Education Department reviews the diplomas, we look at the state requirements for a high school diploma in which the student resides, the school's accreditation, along with the curriculum for non-traditional schools. For example, if the student resides in Wisconsin but the online school is in Illinois, we use the Wisconsin State Statute 118.33 "High School Graduation Standards; criteria for promotion." Each state has its own graduation requirements.

School District Alternative Programs: These programs vary with their certifications. Most use the HSED as the culmination of their program. However, our Ho-Chunk students still need an approved high school diploma. A simple question to ask before enrolling in the alternative program is 'Has the school board approved the alternative program and its requirements for graduation?' We recommend you also get a copy of the school board minutes with this motion for your records.

Other Alternative Programs: charter schools, online schools, GEDO#2, home schooling, and correspondence schools. Our concern is for students investing their money, time, and effort in other school options. Use caution when selecting a program. Verify that the program fulfills your state requirements for graduation and that it is an accredited high school. Also, take the time to review the curriculum and student-teacher ratio, and for good measure, check their rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Diploma Mills are notorious for selling quick exams to earn a diploma but these are not accredited.

For questions or concerns, please contact School Community Relations Division Ho-Chunk Education Department at **(715)284-4915** or **(800) 362-4476**. Or email **SCR@Ho-Chunk.com**

## **PRE K-12 GRANT PROGRAM**

**Purpose is to provide educational grants for Ho-Chunk Nation enrolled children to meet basic educational needs and to assist in ensuring they have the opportunity to fully participate in educational related experiences and unique educational opportunities.**

\*\* The Ho-Chunk Nation is the "payer of last resort", therefore applicants must seek assistance from their area Johnson O'Malley Program prior to applying for the Pre K-12 Grant Program.

\*\* Here are two of the 34 grants sponsored by the Pre K-12 Program.

\*\* More information can be found in the guidelines on the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department website: [ho-chunknation.com/prek-12](http://ho-chunknation.com/prek-12)

### **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE FEES**

**Description:** Assistance is available for tutoring to improve performance in core subjects. Tutorial assistance is paid based upon a contract between the parent of the student and the tutoring service. Contracts must have a start date and completion date, a set rate and hours, tutoring site location, and cancellation policy for grant consideration.

**Examples of providers:** Sylvan Learning, college students/graduates with relevant majors, peer tutors (with a teacher recommendation for tutor's expertise in that particular subject). Unfortunately, family members do not qualify as tutors for the purposes of this grant.

**Fee Limit:** The Pre K-12 Grant Program will NOT pay any amount in excess of \$15.00/hr for tutoring services that do not guarantee results to their students.

### **COMPUTER ORDERS**

**Description:** Assistance is available for purchase or reimbursement of the purchase of a computer; including a printer, a monitor and any cables or power supply that may be needed for students in public or private/parochial high school.

**Examples of orders:** Laptop, Desktop, notebook, printer, wireless mouse, student office software, jump drives, carrying case, etc.

**Program Limit:** The grant does not cover gaming software/equipment or extended warranties. This grant may be used twice per student: first in grade school/middle school/junior high school (K-8); again in high school (9-12).

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

School Community Relations Specialists can be reached in the Ho-Chunk Education Department at **(715)284-4915** or **(800) 362-4476**. Or email **SCR@Ho-Chunk.com**

[WWW.Ho-ChunkNation.com](http://WWW.Ho-ChunkNation.com)

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**Pre-College Grants with PreK-12 Program**  
College Prep Expenses; College Visits

**College Prep Expenses:** Assistance is available for reimbursement of the costs associated with the preparation for secondary school. These costs include the cost of ACT and SAT examination fees, ACT and SAT prep materials and tutoring.

**College Visits:** Assistance is available for payment or reimbursement of costs for a High School Junior or Senior in public or private/parochial school to visit a college where they plan to apply. In order to qualify for this grant, a student be register to take the ACT or SAT.

**Contact:** Pre K-12 Grant Specialist for more information on how to utilize these programs. (715)284-4915 or (800) 362-4476.

**SCR@Ho-Chunk.com**

Facebook.com/HCN.Education



School Community Relations  
Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department

**FROM HIGHER ED: Has your high school student registered to take the ACT?**

**The ACT:** The American College Testing (ACT) score is a **key factor colleges consider when reviewing an application**. It tests knowledge in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The test is timed and will take 3 ½ hours.

**How we help:** The **College Access Program** through Higher Ed provides REIMBURSEMENT for the ACT registration fee; ACT Prep Courses; and up to four (4) college application fees.

**TIP:** Plan to **take the ACT twice**, beginning Jr. year. Start applying to colleges the fall of Sr. year.

**Contact:** **Pre-College Advisors** will answer questions about the College Access Program and help make an academic plan. (800) 362-4476

**EducationAdvisors@Ho-Chunk.com**

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