

Suggested Activities That Can be Funded Using the Impacts on Student Learning Grants

1. OFFERING BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / RECREATION, ARTS, OR CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Fun, engaging before and after-school or weekend programs may be implemented in order to provide extended learning hours during the school year. Such initiatives can scaffold learning to help students catch up and attain grade level expectations in their regular classrooms, promote student engagement in order to boost attendance rates, and promote mental health and wellness for students.

Related activities could include:

- Math or reading clubs, cultural activities, art clubs, sports and recreation opportunities to build student engagement and attendance, cooking and nutrition clubs, etc.
- Field trips / travel to opportunities in nearby communities, such as library programs, sports and fitness centers, museums, etc.
- Opportunities for students (and parents) to be exposed to various careers / career exploration activities, including field trips to directly experience post-secondary settings, career fairs, etc., including but not limited to activities to promote education, health and science related careers.
- Training opportunities for students (e.g. Drivers Ed, etc.)
- On-the land / outdoor activities offered outside of school hours.

Resources available for support:

- [Mind up Curriculum](#) to support social emotional learning – a developed curriculum that foster’s children’s wellbeing through educational programs based in: neuroscience, mindful awareness, positive psychology, and social emotional learning.
- [Stream to Sea Resources](#) - a program created to foster aquatic stewardship, with students learning about the importance of watersheds and how to protect, care for and maintain them.
- [Salmonids in the classroom](#) - an opportunity to raise and release salmon.
- [Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Council \(ISPARC\)](#) – offers a variety of youth sport development programs and other health related opportunities. Some sessions are held virtually.
- Math challenges: <https://www.openmiddle.com/> or <https://makemathmoments.com/> or <https://tapintoteenminds.com/make-math-moments/> or <https://www.wouldyourathermath.com/category/9to12> or <https://woddb.ca/index.html>
- The Royal BC Museum’s learning department offers learning opportunities for children across the province including live, two-way, interactive [digital field trips](#) and [outreach kits](#). These programs are designed to extend students’ learning of B.C.’s Natural and Human History, while also connecting to the BC Curriculum. Outreach kits bring stories and objects from the museum to the classroom. These free to borrow kits include inquiry based hands-on activities and resources from a wide range of themes including bats, the great bear rainforest,

species at risk, ocean, freshwater and us, and more. For more information, contact outreach@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Possible expenses could include:

- Wages and benefits (for a program Coordinator, teachers, Education Assistants, knowledge keepers, etc.).
- Facility fees
- Meals / snack costs
- Honoraria for knowledge keepers / Elders who assist with the extra-curricular activities
- Gifts for program volunteers
- Transportation costs related to the extra-curricular activities (e.g. travel to a field trip, cultural site, or a learning opportunity in a nearby community, etc.)
- Attendance incentives
- Required materials / books / supplies

Note: transportation costs are for bringing students to the community or to a nearby field trip location (such as a library, museum, cultural site ...).

2. ORGANIZING A BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM

Evidence suggests that well-planned tutoring initiatives can be useful to help students overcome learning loss and be prepared for grade level learning in the classroom.

Related work could include:

- Tutoring support for numeracy / math, literacy / reading, technology, or other academic supports.

Resources for support:

- FNEC/FNSA Tutoring resources are available:
 - Activity sheets with user-friendly, simple activities and questions volunteer tutors could use when reading and discussing books with young children. <https://www.fnsa.ca/portfolio-items/childrens-book-activity-sheets-for-home-based-learning/?portfolioCats=21%2C6%2C9>
 - Novel study resources for use with secondary students are available by emailing programs@fnesc.ca.
- Trifold Novel Studies: <https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/what-are-trifold-novelstudies/>
- Books for Grade Levels: <https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/category/corecurriculum-instruction/reading/>

Possible expenses could include:

- Wages and benefits (for a program Coordinator, tutors, teachers, Education Assistants, etc.).
- Facility fees
- Meals / snack costs
- Honoraria for knowledge keepers / Elders who assist with the tutoring program
- Gifts for tutoring program volunteers

- Transportation costs related to the tutoring program (e.g. costs to bring students to the program)
- Attendance incentives
- Required materials / books / supplies

3. IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS STUDENTS' SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Related activities could include:

- Accessing counselling services for students who need supports.
- Providing social-emotional learning opportunities for students (which might include having a specialist / consultant make a presentation)
- Providing opportunities for Elders to mentor students.
- Organizing cultural activities to assist students in building their self-identity and pride and improve their mental health and wellness.

Resources available for support:

- [Mind up Curriculum](#) for before or after school activities to support social emotional learning – a developed curriculum that foster's children's wellbeing through educational programs based in: neuroscience, mindful awareness, positive psychology, and social emotional learning.

"We were struggling to provide counselling services to our students; it is hard to access counsellors. So we advertised widely to find counsellors who could support us virtually. The counsellors we hired visited the school in-person to be introduced to the students, and then are available virtually. We set up a room where students can meet with the counsellor privately, or we help students connect to a counsellor from home. It might not be ideal but it is working well."

Input at the 2023 FNSA Authorized Representatives Meeting

Possible expenses could include:

- Wages and benefits for a program Coordinator
- Honoraria for Elders / knowledge keepers etc.
- Fees for a counsellor or social-emotional learning expert
- Facility fees
- Meals / snack costs
- Transportation costs (for specialists to come to the community, or for cultural activities / on-the-land opportunities)
- Required materials / books / supplies

4. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE IMPROVED STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Related activities could include:

- Meetings of school and community staff to plan a comprehensive attendance approach for students who attend a First Nation school and/or students who attend a public school.

- Meetings with school district partners to plan attendance supports for students who attend public schools.
- Incentives for students and families.
- Purchase of attendance promotional materials (lawn signs, posters, swag with attendance counts logos, etc.).

Resources available for support:

- *An Attendance Toolkit* is available with numerous suggestions for attendance campaigns. Contact programs@fnesc.ca to request a copy by email or mail.

Possible expenses could include:

- Fees for a Home-School Coordinator or Attendance Lead to organize activities to enhance attendance.
- Costs of meetings with attendance teams, families and the community to plan for attendance campaigns and/or to promote the importance of attendance.
- Purchase of promotional materials.

5. EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AT-HOME LEARNING OR FAMILY-SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Related activities could include:

- The purchase and distribution of materials for families to use at home, possibly with accompanying videos or remote supports to facilitate their use, such as science kits, learning toys and games, books, physical education equipment, art and music supplies, etc.
- Meetings with families to discuss education-related topics and share information about how families can support learning and attendance.
- Parent training sessions on a range of topics, including how to effectively read with children at home, or Internet safety and limiting screen time, etc.

Resources available for support:

- A Parents Toolkit is available that includes a series of short, reproducible papers that can be adapted and shared with parents to provide information about topics in three general areas: appreciating the importance of parental involvement in education; understanding the structure of the school system, how to build positive relationships with school staff for the benefit of students, and what to do if difficulties arise; and thinking about how to create healthy and supportive learning environments at home.
- *Attendance Counts: An Information Guide for Families* could be used as a resource for a facilitated meeting on the important topic of attendance. Contact programs@fnesc.ca to request a copy by email or mail.
- Activity sheets with user-friendly, simple activities and questions parents can use when reading and discussing books with their young children at home. <https://www.fnsa.ca/portfolio-items/childrens-book-activity-sheets-for-home-based-learning/?portfolioCats=21%2C6%2C9>

“In our community, I organized a series of Zoom sessions for parents, during which we read through each section of the Parents Toolkit together. I had pizza delivered to the parents who participated, and they could keep their cameras on or off – however they felt comfortable – as we read through the information sheets and talked about how we could use the ideas. Some parents who don’t usually attend events joined

us. Some parents even joined sessions from their cars if they were out. And the exciting thing is we heard feedback from students showing that people are using the information. For example, a student told us their family is sitting down for family meals more often now!”

Feedback from a participant in the 2023 FNEESC Education Conference

“It might be useful to use the Parents Toolkit in staff professional development sessions. It could help our staff build *our* capacity for sharing information with families.”

Input from a March 2024 Attendance Capacity Building Session for First Nation School Staff

Possible expenses could include:

- Fees for a Home-School Coordinator or Parent Advisory Lead to lead activities to enhance parental engagement in education.
- Costs of hosting meetings or a retreat for community / school education staff to plan for parent engagement activities, or for families to discuss relevant topics, including paying associated facility, catering, materials, travel costs, etc.
- Purchasing tablets with home learning programs, or books and educational games and toys (e.g. yahtzee, snap circuits, boggle, arts and crafts supplies, notebooks and pens / pencils, colouring books and crayons, etc.)

Activity Ideas

Novel Studies	▪ FNESC Novel studies (available on the FNESC/ FNSA web sites) ▪ Trifold Novel Studies: https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/what-are-trifold-novel-studies/ ▪ Books for Grade Levels: https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/category/core-curriculum-instruction/reading/
Community Meal Preparations	▪ Learning relevant traditions from elders ▪ Making decorations ▪ Planning menus ▪ Preparing food ▪ Practicing / preparing to share talents (drumming, singing, plays, puppets, movie making, visual art, digital creations) ▪ Making gifts for participants
Math Challenges	▪ https://www.openmiddle.com/ ▪ https://makemathmoments.com/ ▪ https://tapintoteenminds.com/make-math-moments/ ▪ https://www.wouldyourathermath.com/category/9to12 ▪ https://woddb.ca/index.html
Nature Walks and Learning	Opportunities for children to learn from elders or community members in a natural setting, such as: ▪ Oral storytelling related to place ▪ Harvesting ▪ Active games ▪ Unstructured play ▪ Meditation ▪ Scavenger hunts ▪ Community clean-ups ▪ Language learning ▪ Nature sketching/ journaling
Creation Stations	▪ https://bookcreator.com/ ▪ https://blog.teaching.com.au/loose-parts-in-the-learning-environment ▪ Chatterpix (demo: https://youtu.be/_lom-DiDlc8) ▪ Theme related projects (e.g.: map-making, flower pressing, habitat dioramas, painting, claywork, etc.) ▪ Note: there are many ways to include language learning in these projects
Field Trips	▪ Field trips will vary depending on community, weather, and theme choices. They offer great opportunities to include elders, community members, and specialists such as biologists, trappers, language speakers, etc. ▪ Destinations could include local rivers, beaches, fisheries, museums, areas with traditional medicines or foods, locations where artists work, waste management centers, and so many more!

Science Sessions	- Construction Challenges: https://teachingideas.ca/2020/11/23/stem-challenge/ - Experiments: https://science-u.org/index.html - National Geographic- All Grade Levels: https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/; https://www.nationalgeographic.com/ - Research and on-the-land learning based on themes (see for example FNESC Learning First Peoples Classroom Resources- Lesson ideas: http://www.fnesc.ca/learningfirstpeoples/)
Reading Centres	- Small group guided reading - Independent reading - Buddy reading - Word games and puzzles: https://bilingualkidspot.com/2018/11/03/english-word-games-for-kids/ - Digital reading resources. (https://www.readworks.org/; https://simbi.io/; https://www.getepic.com/sign-in)
Storytime	This could take many forms such as: - Teacher reading to students (Book Ideas: https://www.readingpowergear.com/book-lists) - Community member telling stories orally - Children sharing stories with the class

A Few Considerations

- The ideas shared in this appendix were identified with an intermediate (grades 4-7) group of students in mind. Similar ideas could be used for primary or elementary students. Older students are often able to work on one project for a whole block of time, while younger ones may need more activities that are all shorter in length. Many of the activities listed here could be enjoyed by students of all ages, with proper adjustments.
- Make your plans - and be ready to change them! Having back-up activities is essential, as you never know when bad weather, bugs, or staff absences may require you to cancel your original plans.
- When asking community members or elders to participate, invite them well in advance. Be sure to ask about community protocols for guests. Generally, protocols include offering gifts or honoraria to thank them for their knowledge and time.