



HOMESTAY GUIDELINES

The Province of British Columbia and school district international student programs are proud of our world class education system, our welcoming communities, and our incredible natural environment. Recognizing that homestay plays a pivotal role in an international student's experience, BC is committed to high-quality homestay experiences for all students.

A homestay is a formal arrangement by an international student program to house an international student with an approved family during the course of study. The guidelines refer to this family as the 'host family'. A homestay student is a minor child from outside BC who pays a fee to stay with a homestay family in return for meals, a private room, family support, parental supervision, and various cultural experiences.

Students and homestay families understand that the homestay-student relationship is not that of landlord and tenant, but rather one of mutual support where the student will conform to the normal rules of the family life and contribute to the operation of the household and the homestay family will care for the student and include the student in their regular activities as they would any of their children.

EXPECTATIONS OF HOST PARENTS

To promote the best possible homestay experience for international students, host family parent(s) will:

- ◆ Provide a caring, safe, nurturing, and supportive home environment for your student.
- ◆ Include student in family activities, events and trips.
- ◆ Provide three substantial meals and a reasonable amount of nutritious snacks per day.
- ◆ Provide a clean and tidy home with a private, adequately furnished bedroom with a window, closet, bed and bedding, dresser, desk, chair and adequate lighting for homework. Access to a full bathroom with linens and basic toiletries. Access to laundry facilities.
- ◆ Ensure a student's general well-being, seek medical attention when necessary, and report any significant medical or mental health issues to the homestay coordinator.
- ◆ Provide access to the internet to support educational goals and consistent communications with home.
- ◆ Ensure your student attends school and is punctual for classes and maintain contact with our program regarding concerns with student progress, attendance, or behavior.
- ◆ Pick up and drop off international student at the Kelowna International Airport upon arrival and at the time of departure.
- ◆ Abide by all rules/guidelines established by the homestay program provider when hosting a student placed by that provider.
- ◆ Inform the homestay coordinator immediately of any serious or on-going student behaviour issues.

- ◆ Promote strong connections between an international student and their parents, schools, and communities by:
 - Using English as the main language in the home
 - Imposing reasonable limits on the student's personal use of the internet (i.e. number of hours/day and appropriate times of day)
 - Establishing and enforcing an appropriate and reasonable curfew and house rules for the student
 - Assisting the student in seeking extra-curricular activities and sports and providing a reasonable amount of transportation to and from these activities
- ◆ Agree to participate in at least one homestay orientation or refresher session provided by the program each year.
- ◆ Agree to scheduled in-home inspections by the homestay coordinator.
- ◆ Agree to maintain updated criminal record checks (for anyone living in the home who is 19 years or older). The cost of renewal will be covered by the district. Student will not be placed with host family applicants until a criminal record application has been received by the International Education Program office.
- ◆ Ensure the house is safe and complies with the BC Building Code and/or the local building bylaws, as applicable, and with the local fire code.
- ◆ Agree to maintain valid and adequate auto and home insurance policies.
- ◆ Have no more than two international students in the homestay at the same time and agree to not concurrently host international students from other programs.
- ◆ Be 25 years of age or older.

By submitting this application, you are consenting to allow the school district to conduct reference checks as the Central Okanagan School District in its sole discretion deems advisable. You also consent to our obtaining information about your suitability as a host family by making enquiries of persons other than the references you have supplied in your application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: homestay@sd23.bc.ca

Website: www.internationaleducation.ca