



JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

A Guide for Surrey Schools

- Who was Jordan River Anderson?
- Who is Eligible for Jordan's Principle Funding?
- Important District Considerations
- Requesting and Funding Reimbursement
- District Decision-Making Process

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WHO WAS JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON?

Jordan's Principle is named in honour of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba who died while the federal and provincial governments were fighting over who should pay for his care. Jordan's Principle ensures all First Nations children living in Canada may access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Funding may help with a wide range of health, social, and educational needs.

WHAT IS JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE?

Jordan's principle recognizes that First Nation children may need government services that exceed the normative standard of care and will evaluate the individual needs of the child to ensure substantive equality, culturally appropriate services, and/or to safeguard the best interests of the child.

Please do not use the acronym "JP" to refer to Jordan's Principle

Jordan's Principle is a gift from the Anderson family in Jordan's memory. Shortening Jordan's Principle to an acronym reduces it to the level of a government policy, program, or technical term, and dehumanizes Jordan's legacy. The Caring Society has observed that the dehumanization of First Nations children and families through use of acronyms and file numbers is a government pattern that perpetuates discrimination. In honour of Jordan and his family, please do not shorten Jordan's Principle to the acronym "JP".

https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/jordans_principle_resource_guide_2021_final.pdf.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Services provided under Jordan's Principle are available to:

- Registered First Nations children¹ living on or off reserve;
- First Nations children entitled to be registered, under the *Indian Act* including
 - those who became entitled to register under the December 22, 2017 amended provisions of the *Indian Act*, under Bill S-3;
 - Infants under 18 months; and
- Any Indigenous child, including Non-Status First Nation or Métis, *who are ordinarily resident on reserve.*

Please note: If a child needs immediate care, please call 911, your local emergency services number, or visit the nearest health facility.

¹ For the purposes of Jordan's Principle, a "child" is defined as an individual who is under the Age of Majority within their province or territory. In BC the age of majority is 19. As such, eligibility for Jordan's Principle ceases when Age of Majority is attained (date of the child's 19th birthday).



JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Indigenous Services Canada

In BC, the Jordan's Principle initiative was formerly administered by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). On March 31, 2021, the initiative transitioned from FNHA to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), BC Region. The transfer occurred in part because Jordan's Principle serves the health needs of a child, as well as their education and social needs. Throughout Canada, Jordan's Principle is administered by ISC. Their role is to help families negotiate all the available services.

Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination

ISC BC Region has been working with First Nations partners to develop and implement a made-in-BC Jordan's Principle Enhanced Service Coordination model of care that puts First Nations children and families at the centre of service delivery. This model includes two key components:

1. 40 dedicated community-based Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators who will work directly with Indigenous children and families to assist with the navigation of the whole range of federal and provincial services/supports (e.g., education, health, and social) and submitting Jordan's Principle requests on their behalf; and
2. a centralized BC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Hub to support service coordinators and provide information on Jordan's Principle to families and guardians.

Hosted by the [BC Aboriginal Child Care Society \(BCACCS\)](#), the Service Coordination Hub includes a website with a fact sheet of information on [Jordan's Principle](#).

For further information on Jordan's Principle, including step-by-step information on how to submit a Jordan's Principle request, please see the national ISC Jordan's Principle website [HERE](#).

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)

BCACCS is the provincial Coordinating Hub for Jordan's Principle and hosts two regional service coordinators. BCACCS has created a website and is working on a number of other initiatives, including developing regular meetings of a community of practice for and with regional coordinators.

"Our goal is to find ways to ensure a good cultural fit in the way we develop our supports."

~BCACCS

For specific individuals and their contact information, please refer to: <https://firstcallbc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/1.-Jordans-Principle-Information-Sheet.pdf>

WHAT TYPES OF REQUESTS ARE CONSIDERED?

Requests must be specific to the needs of the child, and the child must be below the age of majority. The request must show evidence the family has provided informed consent, and be accompanied by supporting documentation to demonstrate "above normative need".

Requests may be made for health supports, social supports, or educational supports.



Health Supports

Health supports include (for example):

- Mobility aids such as standing and positioning aids and wheelchairs;
- Home modifications and renovations including wheelchair ramps;
- Adaptive furniture such as adjustable beds, safety cots/beds, chairs and seating; protective mats and padding;
- Allied health services/supports/therapeutic services other than nursing, medical or pharmacy (definition as per Vives & Sinha, 2019). Examples include speech therapy and occupational therapy;
- Assessments and screenings;
- Assistive technology and electronics;
- Assistive devices such as hearing aids;
- Addiction services;
- Services from Elders;
- Clothing, shoes and accessories;
- Mental health services;
- Specialized hearing aids;
- Infant formula;
- Traditional healing services;
- Services for children in care;
- Transportation to appointments;
- Oral health services;
- Personal care items;
- Prescription and over the counter medication;
- Medical supplies and equipment;
- Long-term care for children with specialized needs.

Social Supports

Examples of social supports include social workers, land-based activities, personal support worker, specialized summer camps, respite care (individual or group), and specialized programs based on cultural beliefs and practices.

Please note: For Ministry of Children and Family Development Applications for Children in Care

*Social Workers should apply to Jordan's Principle for services that **fall outside the scope of their mandate**. If a service falls within the Ministry's mandate (e.g., Autism funding), they should look to their budget.*

Educational Supports

Examples of educational supports include a personal tutor, educational materials, and training for families.

If a service falls within the school district's mandate (e.g., assistive technologies and electronics, specialized school transportation service, psychoeducational assessment, education assistant support), this should be routinely provided and so would not require an application to Jordan's Principle.

See Appendix A for an overview of the Surrey Schools process relating to Jordan's Principle applications.

Please note: School District Applications for Registered Students

*Educators may apply to Jordan's Principle for services that **fall outside the scope of their mandate**, such as school supplies or tutoring.*

Other

- Safety equipment and enhanced home security systems;
- Sensory and therapeutic items;
- Travel costs if families need to travel to access services, including transportation (air, ground, and water), meals and accommodation, and support for escorts. Travel support is available for both medical AND non-medical reasons, such as travel to attend cultural activities; and
- training for families.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING REQUESTS

Where a staff member is considering a request for a service typically available in the education system (e.g., Education Assistant support, psychoeducational assessment), **contact Student Support - do not request funds through Jordan's Principle**; if you are unsure whether a support should be available through the education system, also contact Student Support.

Parent/Guardian Consent

Applications for Jordan's Principle funding require the consent of the parent or guardian of the child. Requests may be made for individuals or groups of children.

Who may submit requests?

1. A request for a child or children in the same family or with the same guardian may be submitted by:
 - parents or guardians caring for a dependent First Nations child under the age of majority in the child's province/territory of residence;
 - a First Nations child above 16 years of age;
 - an authorized representative of the child, parent or guardian.
2. A request for a group of children from multiple families or guardians may be submitted by a community or service provider, who can request services, such as:
 - respite care
 - support programs
 - local therapeutic specialists, etc.
 - wheelchair ramps
 - transportation to school

How to submit a request

1. If a Jordan's Principle application is appropriate, the staff applying for funding (applicant) must ensure they obtain approval to apply from all of the following:
 - a) the child's parent/guardian
 - b) their site administrator
 - c) Student Support
2. Upon completing the application, the applicant must submit their application for district review to Business Development.
3. When permission is received from Business Development to submit a request to Jordan's Principle, the applicant should contact **one** of the following Jordan's Principle offices:
 - ❖ BC Regional Focal Point:
 - Phone [778-951-0716](tel:778-951-0716)
 - email sac.principedejordancb-bcjordansprinciple.isc@canada.ca
 - ❖ Jordan's Principle [call centre](#) (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week):
 - Phone: [1-855-JP-CHILD](tel:1-855-JP-CHILD)
 - Teletypewriter: [1-866-553-0554](tel:1-866-553-0554)

When you are seeking access to funding for a product, service, or support, it is helpful to have the following information available:

- registration number for child or parent under the Indian Act (if available);
- the product, service or support required and how often the product, service or support will be needed;
- estimated costs;
- copies of documents related to requests (e.g., prescriptions, referrals from health, social or education professionals); and
- any additional information that should be considered to support the request.



IMPORTANT NOTE WHEN SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:

Please note that if approved, Jordan's Principle will pay staff wages for example, however, expenses that exceed the approved amount or that do not fit within the parameters of the approval (e.g., funding for any/all sick leave time and/or vacation time) may need to be covered by the requestor.

Appendix B: Surrey Schools Approved Staffing Applications

PROCESSING REQUESTS

The [Jordan's Principle regional focal point in your area](#) will review the completed request. A decision will be sent to you in writing after the request is processed.

How long does it take to process a request?

1. Requests for a child or children in the same family or with the same guardian:

- a) **urgent** requests (the child's current health or safety is a concern) are processed within 12 hours of receiving all necessary information.
- b) **all other** requests are processed within 48 hours of receiving all necessary information.
 - if we do not have enough information to confirm the type of product, service or support the child needs, more time may be necessary to get this information; however, if the child requires an assessment of their need(s), this can be paid for immediately under Jordan's Principle.

2. Requests for a group of children from multiple families or guardians:

- a) **urgent** requests are processed within 48 hours of receiving all necessary information.
- b) **all other** requests are processed within 1 week of receiving all necessary information.

Approved requests are managed in 1 of 2 ways:

1. where possible, we arrange for the products, services or supports to be provided directly to the child, or children. In these situations, there is no cost to the family, guardian, child or authorized representative and reimbursement is arranged directly with the service provider or vendor; or
2. if the family, guardian, child, or authorized representative has already paid for the approved product, service, or support, then [reimbursement of these expenses](#) will be provided.

REIMBURSEMENTS

Each child's situation is unique. For this reason, it is important to confirm coverage in advance with your Jordan's Principle [regional focal point](#).

Reimbursement may be provided if the approved product, service or support has already been paid.

Requesting a reimbursement

A reimbursement form is needed:

- to request reimbursement for costs already paid; and
- for service providers and vendors to request direct payment for services rendered.



Follow these 3 steps to request a reimbursement:

1. [Contact us](#) so we can help you start the process and confirm that the product, service, or support will be funded.
2. Complete a reimbursement form. We can send you the form and help you fill it in.
3. Send the completed reimbursement form to the Jordan's Principle regional focal point in your area and include all relevant supporting documents.

Receiving the payments

1. Requests for a child or children in the same family or with the same guardian:
 - the parent or guardian normally gets the payment if the child is under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence;
 - children over age 16 may get the payment if they submitted the request; or
 - a vendor or service provider may be paid directly.
2. Request for a group of children from multiple families or guardians:
 - payment will be made to the community or group that made the request; or
 - vendors or service providers may be paid directly.

For Payment Inquiries:

- Call 778-951-0716; or
- Email: sac.paielementsprincipedejordancb-bcjordansprinciplepayments.isc@canada.ca

CHANGES TO APPROVED SERVICES

As per Jordan's Principle's funding guidelines, please note that any changes to the approved Jordan's Principle services/supports/items **require prior written approval** from Indigenous Services Canada. This includes:

1. any changes to the cost, duration, or frequency of services; and
2. expenses that exceed the approved amount, or that do not fit within the parameters of the approval, will need to be covered by the requestor (the applicant's school site in our case);

For Medical Travel – Jordan's Principle does not reimburse costs for missed appointments, except in extenuating circumstances. This includes missed appointment fees, meals, mileage, ferry, flight, hotel, and any other related travel expenses. Please note:

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to contact all service providers in advance should they require a cancellation. Parent's must leave ample time for a cancellation or reschedule to avoid any late cancellation or no-show billing.
- Service providers should inform requestors of cancellation policies in place and should attempt to provide a reminder notice to the client of their upcoming appointment.



DENIALS

If your request is denied, you may [appeal the decision](#) up to 1 year from the date the request was denied.

APPEALS

Appeals to decisions under Jordan's Principle may be sent to [regional focal points](#) across Canada. They will help you start the appeal and work with you throughout the process.

If a request is denied, the requester may appeal the decision within **1 year** of the date of denial. To do so, they must send in a written request to their regional Jordan's Principle focal point. At a minimum, the request for appeal must contain:

- the child's name and date of birth;
- the product or service requested; and
- the date of denial and a copy of the Jordan's Principle denial letter (if available).

Although not required to begin an appeal, you may also include additional information, such as:

- assessment reports/data;
- information showing that fulfillment of the request will help ensure:
 - [substantive equality; and/or](#)
 - access to a culturally appropriate service; and/or
 - meet the best interests of the child.

New or additional information is not needed in order to begin an appeal. The appeal process may take up to 30 business days.

[Sending a request for appeal](#)

An individual may appeal a decision on behalf of an eligible child as described in [Step 2. Who is covered](#), including:

- a parent or guardian of that child;
- a First Nations child, or an Indigenous child ordinarily resident on reserve at the Age of Consent in their province or territory of residence; or
- an authorized representative of the child, parent or guardian.

Requests for appeals for a group of children from multiple families or guardians may be submitted by the community or group that submitted the request.

Please [contact us](#) if you have:

- any questions; or
- new information about any request under Jordan's Principle that was submitted or denied between 2007 and 2017.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding Jordan's Principle, visit the [First Nations Child & Family Caring Society](#) site.

For information specific to children with disabilities or special needs, see [Jordan's Principle and Children With Disabilities and Special Needs: A Resource Guide and Analysis of Canada's Implementation](#)

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) determined the Government of Canada's approach to services for First Nations children was discriminatory. One way the government is addressing this is through a renewed approach to Jordan's Principle. Since the ruling, the CHRT has issued a number of follow-up orders regarding Jordan's Principle. In May 2017, the CHRT ordered that the needs of each individual child must be considered to ensure the following is taken into account under Jordan's Principle:

1. Substantive equality (i.e., that First Nations children may need services and supports above the “normative standard” [what is ordinarily provided by the provinces and territories]). The Tribunal ruled that substantive equality is needed to address the impacts of Canada's colonial history and discrimination against Indigenous peoples.
2. Providing culturally appropriate services.
3. Safeguarding the best interests of the child.

Jordan's Principle is an initiative, not an ongoing government program with a fixed budget. It is in place to address the immediate needs of the child and to look at where gaps are in services and support for the child.

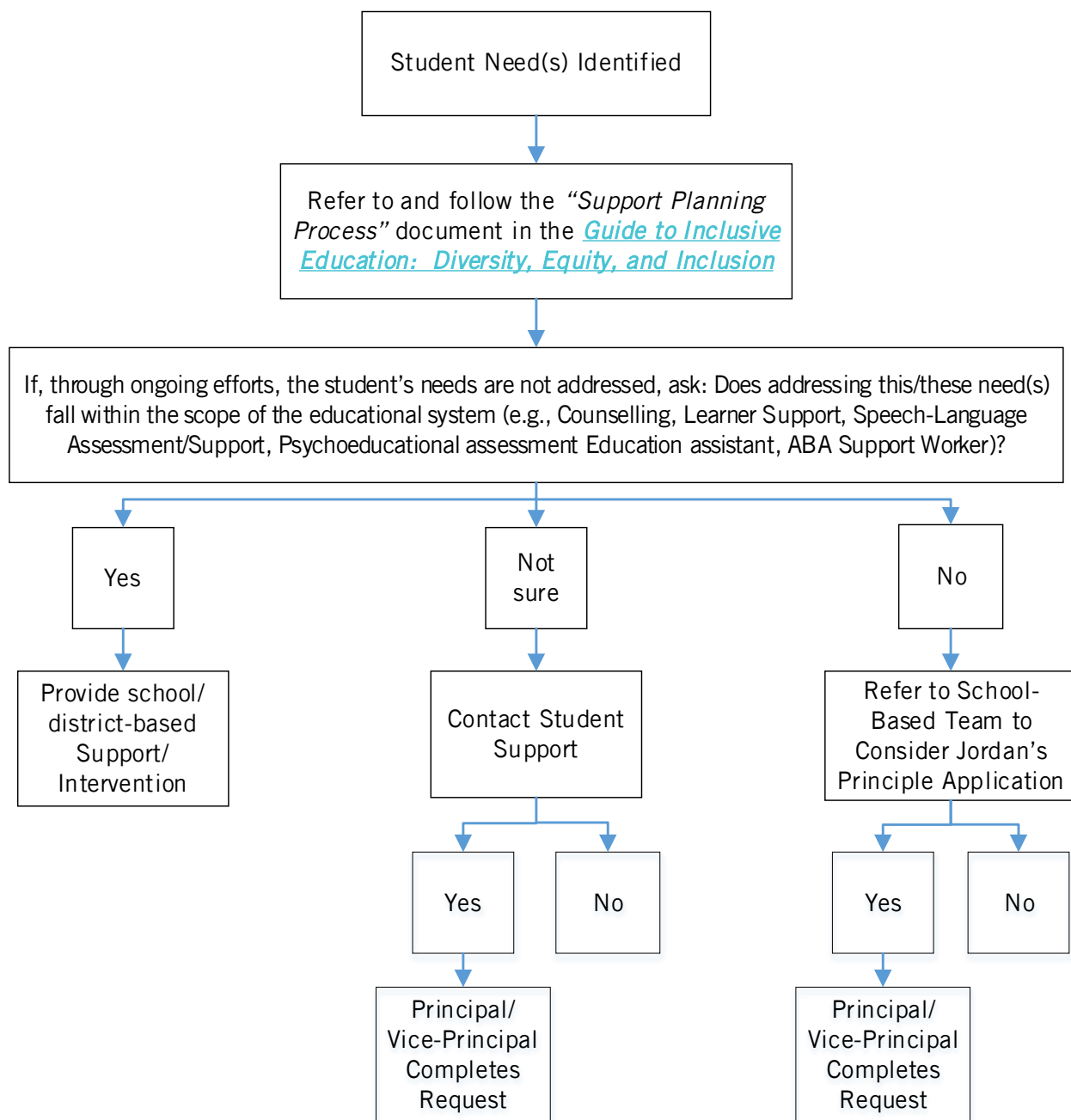
Requests for access to products, services, and supports for Inuit children through the Initiative can also be sent to the regional focal points listed on this page.

On September 6, 2019, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) released a decision related to compensation for certain individuals under Jordan's Principle. This is a complex decision which the Government of Canada is reviewing. Although you may have questions about this, the 24/7 Jordan's Principle toll-free line and regional contacts, are intended to help with requests for products, services and supports, and not for requests related to the CHRT order of compensation of individuals.

Please refer to the [The Government of Canada's assessment of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ruling on compensation](#) for more information.



Surrey Schools Decision-making Process - *Jordan's Principle* -



Surrey Schools Approved Staffing Applications

Upon notification that a staffing-related application *that falls outside the scope of the educational system* has been approved, the applicant must notify the site administrator, as well as Student Support, and the Manager of Business Development. The applicant must forward the notification of approval that is received from Jordan's Principle.

Upon receiving written notification of approval, the Manager of Business Development will seek Executive approval to provide position control for the position to be established.

Once Executive approval has been granted, the Manager of Business Development, will work with the Managers of Fiscal Management and Human Resources to create and fill the position.

EXAMPLE

A funding request for \$3,850.00 is submitted on the basis of a child receiving 10 hours per week *mentoring support* from September 7, 2021 to December 15, 2021 (i.e., 14 weeks). The funding amount is based on an hourly wage of \$27.50 per hour. The hourly wage does not factor in the cost of benefits (approximately 35%).

The true mentoring support cost should be costed out at a rate of \$37.13 per hour (\$27.50 per hour x 1.35), which is a *projected* hourly cost as staff have varying costs based on their benefits/vacation allotment. As a result, the true *projected* cost of this mentoring placement is \$5,198.20 (\$37.13 x 10 hrs/wk x 14 wks).

In this instance, the school/district would be required to absorb \$1,348.20 of the mentoring cost, as the funding would only cover \$3,850 - thus the need to have applications reviewed internally before submission.

