



1. Question: What is the WorldSkills competition?

Answer:

The WorldSkills competition highlights different trades and technologies occupations. The competition will be held in Calgary from September 1 – 7, 2009 and Alberta students in Grades 9 and 10 are encouraged to observe the competitors demonstrate their talents. Students from other grades are welcome to attend. More information about WorldSkills Calgary 2009 can be found at www.worldskills2009.com.

2. Question: Will Alberta Education support costs to transport Grade 9 and 10 students to Calgary?

Answer:

Yes. Alberta Education will assist public, Catholic, Francophone and charter school authorities to pay costs incurred to transport students and the appropriate numbers of supervisors from the school jurisdiction to Calgary and back. A *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form*, in electronic and hard copy, will be provided to secretary-treasurers and superintendents to identify costs. Alberta Education will support costs associated with contracting coaches/buses from a transportation company, using board-owned buses, and, in some cases where ground transportation is unavailable, air travel. Available funding will be based on the number of Grade 9 and 10 students in each school authority. The *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form* will be sent by school authority to School Finance Branch and will serve as the basis for determining how many students will be transported, in what manner and at what cost to the school authority. At the conclusion of the competition, each school authority will determine actual final costs and submit **one** invoice to School Finance Branch for reimbursement.

3. Question: Does Alberta Education have a rule about using air travel rather than ground travel to transport students and their supervisors to the competition?

Answer:

Yes. In those instances where ground transportation is not available, it would be necessary to transport students by air.

4. **Question:** Why are students only in Grades 9 and 10 being specifically encouraged to attend?

Answer:

Students in Grades 9 and 10 are just beginning to think about significant career related choices and associated course work; seeing others demonstrate their skills in various trades and technologies will enable students to make informed decisions about taking appropriate Career and Technology Studies courses or entering an apprenticeship program. However, students from other grades are welcome to attend. The WorldSkills competition will showcase youth as world champions, increase awareness and generate interest among youth in the trades and technology sectors, and increase awareness about the high quality training available in Alberta's K-12 and advanced learning systems for trades and technology occupations.

5. **Question:** What if all of the Grade 9 and 10 students cannot or do not want to attend? Is it possible to take other students instead?

Answer:

Yes. School authorities are encouraged to have students in Grade 9 and 10 participate, but may, at their discretion, send students from other grades. Younger students may not benefit to the same degree as older students because Grade 9 is the first year of formal career exploration that continues on into high school. While it is possible to have students from other grades attend, along with or instead of students in Grade 9 or 10, Alberta Education will provide funding equal to only the combined number of students in Grades 9 and 10. In other words, funding will be capped to transport only the combined student population in those grades. The number of students will be determined by the September 30, 2009 enrolment count submission by school authorities to Alberta Education.

6. **Question:** What is the due date for submission of the *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form* and when will school authorities receive a reply from Alberta Education?

Answer:

The *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form* must be submitted to the School Finance Branch by November 30, 2008 with the superintendent's or secretary-treasurer's signature. Alberta Education will confirm funding available and respond to school authorities by January 31, 2009.

7. **Question:** By what date are school authorities asked to submit invoices and by what date will school authorities receive funding for transportation costs?

Answer: School authorities are asked to invoice Alberta Education for actual costs by October 30, 2009, and payments will be made to school authorities by December 31, 2009. More information will be provided to school authorities through a formal package in September 2008 and through the October Director's Report.

8. Question: Will Alberta Education support the costs of transporting students from their schools to a central location where the students may board a coach or a larger school bus?

Answer:

Yes. Transporting students from smaller, more remote schools to a central location is a strategy that, in many instances, will need to be used. Costs associated with these trips to and from the central location need to be included on the *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form*.

9. Question: Is payment to a school authority for transporting students on this type of field trip consistent with site-based decision making in which schools are normally responsible for funding field trips from their budgets?

Answer:

Yes. Alberta Education provides funding to school authorities each year and authorities distribute funding to schools. This funding will be provided in the same fashion. Each school authority is expected to submit one *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form* to the School Finance Branch before the event and one invoice for actual costs at the conclusion of the event. Superintendents may wish to have each participating school complete the *Notice of Intent to Attend and Transportation Cost Estimate Form* and submit it to central office for an amalgamation into one submission to the School Finance Branch. The process used by school authorities to collect estimated and actual cost information is to be determined by superintendents.

10. Question: Students and supervisors may require overnight accommodation and meals during the event. Will Alberta Education pay these costs?

Answer:

No. Payment for costs associated with students' and supervisors' accommodation and meals for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 is the responsibility of the school and/or the school authority.

11. Question: Do school authorities need to keep on file all records of actual costs?

Answer:

Yes. As with any funding claim, all supporting documentation must be kept on file to satisfy audit and verification procedures. Alberta Education may conduct random audits of expenditure claims at any time.

12. Question: Do school authorities need to coordinate the attendance of their students with the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 organizers before visiting the site?

Answer:

Yes. WorldSkills Calgary 2009 needs to know how many students will be attending the competition on any given day to facilitate security arrangements and coordinate appropriate numbers at the various venues. Information about registering for the WorldSkills event will be available on the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 website (www.worldskills2009.com) after November 3, 2008. Coordination of attendance should be arranged as early as possible after this date. If more information is needed, please contact Neil Zinger, Transportation Manager, WorldSkills Calgary 2009 at 403-774-5020.

13. Question: Does local school authority policy on field trips apply for this event?

Answer:

Yes. All school authorities have existing field trip policies in place that identify safety and supervisory practices. Student attendance at the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 competition should be treated as a regular field trip for students and all appropriate procedures for field trips should be followed.

14. Question: Who can I contact for additional information?

Answer:

Questions about the *Notice of Intent to Attend and Cost Estimate Form*, funding and payment of invoices can be directed to Brad Smith, Director, School Finance Branch, at 780-422-0920. Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access.

15. Question: What arrangements have been made in Calgary to ensure that bus parking is available and that bus drivers do not have to stay with their buses for the entire day?

Answer:

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 organizers are working with the City of Calgary to have appropriate parking spaces available for the buses and coaches bringing students to the competition. If more information is needed, please contact Neil Zinger, Transportation Manager, WorldSkills Calgary 2009 at 403-774-5020.