

Appendix A

Recommended Practices for Agencies Arranging Homestay

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board assumes no responsibility for the safety of students outside of school hours. The Board does not make homestay arrangements, nor does it monitor students' living conditions. However, the Board does work in partnership with agencies that make and monitor homestay arrangements, and makes the following recommendations, which are intended to ensure the safety, comfort, and sense of belonging of all international students.

Recommended Practices for Choosing Homestay Families

- Homestay families are comprised of two or more people (e.g., a couple or a two-parent family with one or more children).
- Student culture, gender, age, beliefs, needs, and preferences are considered when choosing homestay families (e.g., where possible, a student should be placed with a student of like gender from the same school community; students with allergies to animals should be placed in pet-free homes).
- Homestay families live within the school community and send their children to the same school.
- Mandatory:** All homestay families must provide evidence of passing a vulnerable sector check.
- Mandatory:** The homes of all homestay families must be thoroughly inspected prior to the student's visit.

Recommended Practices for Homestay Families

- Homestay families treat all visiting students as a cherished member of their family (e.g., include them in all family activities and outings, provide them with access to all areas of the home, invite them to join in conversations).
- Homestay families prepare all meals for their visitors, do their laundry, and perform other pertinent household chores that would normally be done by parents of young children (e.g., housecleaning, mowing the lawn, doing grocery shopping).
- Homestay families provide each visitor with his/her own bedroom.
- Homestay families are provided with cultural sensitivity training that is specific to the student and his/her culture (e.g., it is forbidden to touch students from this culture on the head).
- Students are provided with cultural sensitivity training that is specific to the culture and home they are entering (e.g., tattoos are common in Canada and not a sign of involvement in criminal activity).
- Mandatory:** The homes of all homestay families are thoroughly and regularly inspected throughout the student's visit (i.e., at least once a month).