



# Gila River Indian Community

## Off-Reservation Boarding Schools



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Application deadline to **ALL** boarding schools is **July 25, 2025**. Please turn in your application(s) along with **ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION** to the Off-Reservation Boarding Schools office no later than **5:00 PM** on the deadline date.

### **Parent and Student ORBS Handbook:**

#### ***The Purpose and Goal of the Off Reservation Boarding School Program (ORBS):***

- The ORBS Program is to provide assistance in completing school applications and providing supporting system to the student and their families.
- The purpose of the ORBS Advisor is to assist students in successfully completing applications, achieving academic success, and graduating from their school by providing as a liaison with the Gila River Indian Community that can support the students and their families.

#### ***Appointments:***

- All new/potential students are encouraged to meet with the ORBS Advisor.
- Appointments are encouraged by Advisor to meet with student(s) and parents/guardians.
- Walk-ins will be seen at Advisor's availability.

#### ***Intake/Applications:***

- Interested parties are able to come to the Tribal Education Department (TED) Office to pick up an application for the boarding school they are interested in. Some applications are also available online.
- A checklist of required documents will be provided to the family along with ORBS required documents and the application.
- Submission of an application **DOES NOT** automatically enroll the student into the school of choice. Each school has an Admissions Committee who reviews all applications. The decision is at the discretion of the committee and will be based on the merit of the application.
- **ALL** sections of the application must be thoroughly completed. Campus admission committees **WILL NOT** review incomplete applications. **If an incomplete application is submitted the boarding school registrar will contact the family directly not the ORBS Advisor.**
- **ALL** medical and/or physical conditions must be disclosed in the application.
- **ORBS Program does not accept, deny, or place students on a waiting list. We serve as a liaison to help complete and submit applications**

#### ***Transportation:***

- Transportation to airport maybe available on a case-by-case basis. The transportation request must be approved by the TED Director. Requests are to be submitted in writing two weeks prior to date of departure. Transportation Requests are available at the TED office.

- In the event of a death, **Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are responsible** for round trip transportation for student to attend all funeral services.

### ***School Travel Information:***

- Your School of choice will provide transportation for the students **4 Times** per school year:
  1. Beginning of the school year
  2. Winter Break
  3. Return from Winter Break
  4. End of the school year
- Campus travel agents will be in contact with you once the travel arrangements have been complete.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible to ensure a safe and timely departure.
- Students **Must** travel on the arranged dates and times. If for any reason a student cannot meet their designated travel itinerary, it is the **responsibility for the parent/guardian** to notify the proper officials **Before** departure. If proper notification is not given the parent may be held accountable for any charges or fees incurred.
- **ORBS Advisor is not responsible for making travel arrangements**

### ***Room and Board:***

- Your school of choice provides room and board as well as most educational supplies. Students are expected to provide themselves with personal items such as shampoo, toothpaste, clothing, shoes, etc. and one may prefer to acquire their own bedding. Please note that all personal items will be taken **AT YOUR OWN RISK**.

### ***Parent/Guardian Responsibility:***

- Should the parent/guardian decide to **WITHDRAW** their student, it is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT** to make travel arrangements and cover all costs involved.
- Parents **MUST UPDATE** the ORBS office on any information changes such as home locations, addresses, contact numbers, Withdraws, and Transfers.
- Parents and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their school's policies and procedures, student rights and responsibilities, or student handbooks of their prospective schools.
- Should violations of the law occur off campus, the student is subject to the **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**. Parents are responsible for all legal matters and fines incurred. If parents are required to be present for legal matters, they are financially responsible for any travel accommodations.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should develop a working relationship with staff and administration at school of choice. Student grade reports are mailed directly to the parents/guardians. If you are not receiving the academic progress reports please contact the school, or the ORBS office.
- Should you have any questions or concerns the ORBS office will assist you in contacting the academic, residential, or behavioral counselors at the schools. Teleconferences may be arranged through the ORBS Advisor and the office will assist you in faxing documents to the school.

## **Gila River Indian Community Truancy Ordinance**

### **7.603. Truancy.**

A. It is unlawful for any child between the ages of five and eighteen years of age that fails to enroll and attend school more than five days during any school semester without a valid excuse shall be considered truant.

1. Any child who is truant from school without a valid excuse may be subject to adjudication as a status offender.
2. Truancy matters against children or a child's parent(s) or guardian(s) may be initiated by any of the following individuals or agencies:
  - a. Law enforcement officials;
  - b. TSS worker;
  - c. The Protective Services Attorney;
  - d. Parent or court appointed guardian;
  - e. Principal, or his designee of a school;
  - f. Truancy officer;
  - g. Probation Officers.
3. A truancy officer shall be authorized to investigate a child's absence from school to determine if cause exists to file a truancy petition or citation. A truancy officer shall also be authorized to issue and prosecute a citation or petition for truancy against a child absent from school without a valid excuse, and against that child's parent(s) or guardian(s).
4. Petitions filed under section 7.603 shall conform to the requirements set forth in section 7.601.B., with the exception that petitions shall be signed by the person or party making an allegation of truancy and shall set forth his capacity or interest in bringing the allegation.
5. Although petition or citations can be filed and prosecuted under section 7.603 without the authorization or participation from the Protective Services Attorney, nothing herein shall prevent the Protective Services Attorney from initiating or prosecuting any petition or citation arising under this section.
6. Before a truancy officer may file a petition or issue a citation under this section, the truancy officer and/or the child's school shall make reasonable efforts to get the child to attend school, which may include:
  - a. Telephone calls to the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
  - b. Correspondence sent to the child's parent(s) or guardians(s);
  - c. Meeting with the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
  - d. Visits to the child's home; or
  - e. Provide information to various agencies to assist the child and/or family to address or overcome any issues or impediments that hinder the child's regular attendance at the school.
7. The reasonable efforts taken by the child's school and/or the truancy officer must be included in the petition or citation, either in the body or as an attachment.
8. Absences due to suspension or expulsion from school shall not be considered excused under this section.

NOTE: Taken from Ordinance GR-03-16, also known as the Children's Code of the Gila River Indian Community Law and Order Code

***I have read and discussed*** the 2025-2026 ORBS Parent Handbook with the Off-Reservation Boarding School Advisor. I fully understand the contents of this document pertaining to the ORBS application process and the legal issues contained.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	Date
Student	Date
ORBS Advisor	Date