

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Background

Consistent with Alberta Education's *First Nations, Metis and Inuit Policy Framework*, the District is committed to providing high quality instructional programs and educational services for Indigenous students and to increasing understanding and acceptance of Indigenous cultures for all students.

A key priority for the District in the area of Indigenous education is improvement of educational achievement among First Nations, Métis and Inuit students through meaningful educational opportunities from kindergarten through to grade 12.

Procedures

1. The District shall provide instructional programs designed to address the academic, cultural and spiritual needs of Indigenous students and will provide opportunities for Indigenous students to acquire an education equal to other students. All instructional programs will be learner-centred and culturally respectful.
2. The District shall set and maintain high standards for Indigenous student achievement and shall support students in accomplishing such success.
 - 2.1 Through the provision of school-based and Instructional Services resources including consultation and collaboration, instructional programming for Indigenous students will reflect their culture and provide access to culturally sensitive support services.
 - 2.2 In addition, the District and its schools shall track and report Indigenous achievement to Alberta Education as required on an annual basis.
3. In order to increase high school completion and successful post-secondary transition for Indigenous students, the District shall provide school-based resources and supports to facilitate student access into a post-secondary diploma or degree program, apprenticeship training or employment. School-based and District resources for Indigenous students shall be provided to encourage Indigenous students to access career planning programs and services available at District high schools.
4. In the context of educational programming, the District shall provide opportunities for Indigenous students to study and experience their own culture.
 - 4.1 In addition, the District will encourage Indigenous parents and leaders in the school community to contribute their expertise to the education of Indigenous students.

- 4.2 In achieving optimal learning environments for its Indigenous students, the District shall provide programs for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners that reinforce and recognize cultural identity, enhance character development, and develop life management skills.
5. Within the context of a Catholic learning environment, the District shall provide opportunities for students to plan for and participate in spiritual activities that emphasize an Indigenous context.
6. Aligned with the District's respect for all parents as primary educators of their children, First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents will have meaningful opportunities to participate actively in decisions that directly impact their children's education.
- 6.1 In addition, District principals shall ensure that, as with all students, Indigenous parents are aware of and have easy access to information concerning their children's education.
7. Consistent with Alberta Education's expectations, and with the District's commitment to quality professional development, teachers, administrators and District staff shall have access to resources and in-services supportive of best practices related to teaching and learning for Indigenous students.
8. The District shall bring to its non-Indigenous student population opportunities to develop recognition of and appreciation for traditional and contemporary Indigenous life and the diversity among Indigenous cultures. Included in these opportunities, shall be recognition of and respect for the role of elders and community resource people.
9. Non-Resident Students who Live on Reserves
- 9.1 The District is willing to provide education for non-resident Indigenous students living on reserves in the Fort McMurray region as outlined in agreements with government agencies.

Approval Date: June 14, 2018

Reference: Section 18, 20, 39, 45, 45.1, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
First Nations, Metis and Inuit Policy Framework