



“Together We Learn”

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

Policies And Procedures

Section Five: Instructional Programs

501 - ABORIGINAL EDUCATION K-12 ENHANCED FUNDING

Introduction

The Ministry of Education provides enhanced funding to school-age students of Aboriginal Ancestry. Enhanced funding provides culturally appropriate educational programs and services to support the success of Aboriginal students.

Definitions

- ***Student of Aboriginal Ancestry***, for the purpose of this funding policy, is defined as a school-age student who has self-identified as being of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, status and non status; Métis; and Inuit). Aboriginal identification must be made on a voluntary basis.
- ***Aboriginal Education Programs and Services*** are Aboriginal Language and Culture programs, Aboriginal Support Services, or other Ministry-approved Aboriginal Programs.
- Such programs and services should be articulated in Enhancement Agreements and developed collaboratively by the school board and district Aboriginal communities. Enhancement Agreements are signed by the school board, the Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education.

Policy

1. ***Targeted Aboriginal Education Funding*** – Targeted Aboriginal Education funding requires the collaboration of school boards and local Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver Aboriginal Education programs and services that integrate academic achievement and Aboriginal culture and/or language.
2. School-age students of Aboriginal Ancestry participating in Aboriginal Education Programs and services offered by public schools are eligible for Aboriginal Education funding. Adult students are not eligible. Adult students are individuals over nineteen (19) years of age.
3. Students qualifying for Aboriginal Education funding will be funded at the rate set by the Ministry of Education per full-time equivalent.



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4. Funds provided for Aboriginal Education Programs are targeted and must be spent on the provision of these programs and services. The delivery and outcomes of Aboriginal programs and services must be documented, preferably through Enhancement Agreements.
5. Funded Aboriginal Education programs must be additional to any other programs and services to which an Aboriginal student is eligible, including provincial base funding, ESL and Special Education.
6. Targeted Aboriginal Education funding must not be used to replace other funded programs such as Special Education or ESL.
7. Targeted Aboriginal Education funding must not be used for the delivery of BC First Nations Studies 12 or other basic classroom instruction.