

Maatmaas k^witačinkst'aŋ'in λuλuuŋtaq
(Tribes, nations walking hand in hand together doing good work)

School District 70(Alberni) Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Vision

Understanding “hiišukiš c'awaak” (everything is connected as one), “usma”, (our children are precious) and “iisaak”, (respect, for self, for others and for the world around us), we will integrate traditional and contemporary teachings to ensure that all our students are attaining their highest levels of academic, cultural and individual success, empowered with the tools of knowledge, skill and experience to compete on any level, anywhere, to meet the challenges of today's world.

Preamble

This Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has been developed with the vision and spirit of enhancing educational performance. This agreement will be implemented with the guidance and approval of the Aboriginal Communities to improve achievement of all Aboriginal learners within School District 70's jurisdiction. The Aboriginal Education Liaison Committee will be responsible for developing and implementing this agreement. This agreement is part of the existing positive relationships that exist between the Aboriginal and First Nations communities and School District 70.

School District 70 (Alberni) recognizes and honours the special relationship that exists with the Nuuchah Nulth in whose traditional territories we operate. We also recognize the historical and critical importance Aboriginal peoples place on the preservation of their culture and traditions. Therefore this Enhancement Agreement honours the special relationship with the people of the Nuuchah Nulth regions and all other Aboriginal people living in School District 70. This agreement supports the commitment to the preservation of their language, culture and traditions as well as the improvement of the educational performance of Aboriginal learners.

To encourage the voice of the Aboriginal community, an Aboriginal Education Liaison Committee exists and is maintained by School District 70 (Alberni) whose purpose, function and role is to:

- Provide shared decision making responsibility
- Provide a venue for communication between the Aboriginal community, parents and SD70 (Alberni)
- Provide guidance for the expenditures of targeted funds.

The Aboriginal Education Liaison Committee is made up of representatives from:

- A member of each First Nation: Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshah, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet.
- A member of the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council
- A member of the Port Alberni Friendship Centre,
- A member of the UNN Local 560
- A member of the Métis Society of Port Alberni
- A member of the Alberni District Teachers Union
- A member from the SD70 (Alberni) School Trustees
- A member from the administration of SD70 (Alberni)

Goals and Performance indicators

The goals of the School District 70 (Alberni) Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement are:

Goal 1: To increase the achievement of all Aboriginal students.

- Indicators:
 - Improvement in Literacy through the Grades 3 and 6 District Reading Comprehension Assessment, the Grades 4 and 7 FSA Assessment and the grade 5 and 8 District-wide write.

Performance Indicator	2004/5 Target	2007/08 Target
Grade 3:		
Benchmarks	76%	79%
District Reading Comprehension	30%	33%
Grade 4:		
FSA - Reading	60%	64%
FSA - Writing	70%	74%
Grade 5:		
District Write Assessment	20%	26%
Grade 6:		
District Reading Comprehension	20%	23%
Grade 7:		
FSA - Reading	48%	51%
FSA- Writing	80%	85%
Grade 8:		
District Write Assessment	15%	23%

- Improvement in Numeracy through the Grades 2 and 3 District Numeracy Assessment, the Grades 4 and 7 FSA Assessment and the Principles of Math 12 Success Rate.

Performance Indicator	2004/5 Target	2007/08 Target
Grade 2:		
District Math Assessment	46%	52%
Grade 4:		
FSA - Numeracy	75%	81%
Grade 6:		
District Math Assessment	21%	27%
Grade 7:		
FSA - Numeracy	70%	76%
Grade 12:		
Principles of Math Success Rate	80%	85%
Principles of Math Participation	7%	10%

- The number of IEP academic achievement goals met for those students receiving Special Education services
 - 2005/06 will be a baseline year for this data.

Goal 2: To increase the number of Aboriginal students completing grade 12 with a Dogwood Certificate that will enable them to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and assets needed to contribute to a healthy society and sustainable economy.

- Indicator:
 - Increases in Aboriginal Students’ six-year Dogwood completion rate using the Dogwood Completion Rate provided by District Key Information and School graduation statistics

Performance Indicator	2004/5 Target	2007/08 Target
Grade 12:		
Dogwood Completion Rate	43%	54%

Notes regarding data:

- All target figures represent students who are meeting or exceeding expectations
- Targets are being tracked through cohort groups

Goal 3: To enhance Aboriginal students’ understanding of their heritage, sense of belonging, and personal belief that they can be successful in British Columbia in a public education system that is safe, caring, supportive and respectful.

- Indicators:
 - Performance standards will be developed in 2005/6
 - Attendance data will be collected as a baseline in 2005/06
 - Retention data will be collected as a baseline in 2005/06

Goal 4: To ensure that all students have a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the language of the local First Nations tribes and culture of all Aboriginal groups. Involvement in programs is strongly encouraged

- Indicators:
 - Participation in cultural programs. Data will be collected in 2005/06
 - Success rate in these programs is measured year to year.
 - That there is a clear understanding of and appreciation for the Aboriginal Community and a clearer understanding of the diversity of this group by all sectors of the school community. A Satisfaction Survey question will be added to the 2005/06 instrument and used as a baseline

Supporting Principles

In addition to the goals above, we will ensure that:

- A concrete plan be put into place and reviewed on a regular basis to show that the district actively combats racism.
- The communication with the Aboriginal community and parents are ongoing and a high priority
- The school environment reflects value and appreciation of the Aboriginal People
- There be Aboriginal programs and the integration of Aboriginal material to reflect the Aboriginal population of the district.

Implementation

- The agreement will be implemented effective September 2005
- Existing and new procedures will be used to gather school-based data in order to monitor individual progress over time, as a complement to data provided by the Ministry.
- The goals of this Agreement will be connected with School District 70 (Alberni)'s Accountability Contract as well as into each school's annual growth plan. These will include the goals, objectives and strategies.
- Parental consultation and involvement will be actively sought. Parents are seen as true partners in the education process and will be consulted in a respectful, meaningful and purposeful manner. The empowerment of parents is seen as essential.
- An annual report will be made beginning in Fall 2006.