

# DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL Superintendent's Monitoring Report

Policy Name	Wabanaki Education		
Policy Number	ASD-W-ER11	Number of Reports per year	1
Policy	The District Education Council acknowledges that the majority of ASD-West is situated on unseeded and unsurrendered Wolastoqey territory. ASD-West provides and fosters opportunities for students, teachers, administrators and DEC members to learn about the significance of Wabanaki peoples in New Brunswick.		
Date of Report	December 10, 2020		
Date of Previous Report (s) This School Year	N/A		
Date of Future Report (s) This School Year	N/A		
Report Filed by:	David McTimoney, Superintendent		
Report Supported by:	Sarah Francis, First Nations Education Coordinator Susan Young, Data and Accountability Supervisor		

## **Interpretation:**

- The policy states that the District and Council recognize the historic significance of the land which makes up much of Anglophone West School District along Wolastoq.
   There is an acknowledgement that the Wolastoqey people were here first and never relinquished this land to European settlers upon arrival hundreds of years ago.
- The policy calls for all students and staff in ASD-W to learn more about this important history and ensure we understand the significance of the Wabanaki peoples in our province, both historically and in the present day.

### Justification:

- The Education Acts (Section 7) outlines the responsibility to respond to the needs of indigenous students and foster an understanding of their history and culture.
- Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (in particular numbers 62 to 65).
- New Brunswick Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreement.
- Everyone at their best: Province of New Brunswick 10 Year Education Plan, Objective #6
- District Improvement Plan for ASD-W

### **Compliance:**

- Partnerships with First Nations Communities, First Nations organizations and staff
  from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and
  school district help enhance the education of Indigenous students, meeting their
  needs with educational opportunities. It is the expectation that all students in ASDW will benefit from meaningful, well planned lessons that will increase the
  knowledge with respect to factual Canadian and New Brunswick history.
- Learning is strengthened for all when Wolastoqey perspectives are integrated in classroom activities and the school environment. Likewise, Indigenous student learning styles, language and culture are all important considerations for teachers and staff when focusing on student learning. Data is gathered to help inform decisions in support of improving achievement levels for Wolastoqi and Indigenous students.
- Opportunities are made available for the ASD-W student and staff community to recognize and celebrate the history, culture and contemporary issues of the Wolastoqey people.
- Knowing that parental engagement can be of benefit to student learning, ASD-W
  looks for opportunities to welcome First Nations parents and guardians into the
  schools and system and try to involve them in educational matters pertaining to
  their children.

- There are six Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services committees, one for each Community in ASD-W. The committee includes the Chief, First Nation Director of Education, First Nations Education Coordinator from ASD-W, Director of Finance and Administration from ASD-W and the Superintendent. The committees review proposals and invests in educational supports to enhance learning for nominal role First Nation students and others who may benefit. Formal reports are generated each year to account for the work under the terms of the Enhancement Agreement. One report is generated for the province to be presented in the legislature, one report is generated for the district to be shared with DEC and an individual report is generated for each community to be shared with Chief and Council. PLEASE NOTE Due to COVID, these reports were not generated for the 2019-20 school year. There is a nominal role that is taken twice per year to inform financial decisions with respect to funding of the agreement. School education plans are also an important part of the process.
- There is one First Nations Education Coordinator and one First Nations Education Lead that work within the ASD-W district plan of establishment. The coordinator and lead support all 69 schools in the district with First Nations education strategies and cultural practices. They make strong connections with schools who serve students that live within First Nation Communities in our district.
- The coordinator participates in provincial collaboration on First Nations topics of significance, communication with First Nations Communities, Enhancement meetings, NEAT meetings, Jordan's Principle, and professional learning. The coordinator works very close with enhancement staff members as well. They are, at times, the connection between families and schools.
- The First Nations Education Lead provides language and cultural support to all schools in ASD-W. Treaty education has been their focus during the 2020-2021 school year. Staff and students are learning about Peace and Friendship Treaties and the rights of Wabanaki Peoples according to the Treaty agreements.
- There are recognition activities that occur throughout the district that include, but are not limited to: acknowledgement of the unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Wolastoqey People, traditional dancing and drumming, World of Wisdom, Orange Shirt Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, Wolastoq Song shared in the mornings at schools and Spirit Bear.
- Two schools traditionally hold parent teacher interviews for First Nation students
  in the community as opposed to in the school. There are also activities that engage
  the community, such as an Elder's Tea and school powwows. Enhancement support
  staff provide a pivotal link between schools and families in Communities.

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- Many Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Language Keepers have connected with schools across ASD-W. They have shared teachings about Sacred medicines, Treaty rights, Wolastoqey Nation, Wolastoq, Residential schools and ceremonies.
- All Subject Coordinators within ASD-W collaborate with the First Nations Education Coordinator to integrate First Nations education in all curricular areas.
- ASD-W district staff have been included in Orange Shirt day teachings as well as a Wolastoq flag ceremony. Teachings will continue to be shared with those who work within ASD-W, but outside of school buildings.

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Evidence of Compliance:			
<ul> <li>ASD-W Enhancement Agreement Report 2016-17 to 2018-19</li> <li>First Nation Coordinator Work Plans</li> <li>Various pictures, agendas and accounts of professional learning, activities and celebrations</li> </ul>			
Appendices:			
C – Truth and Reconci D - Everyone at their https://www2.gnb.ca/c t.pdf	ction 7, http://laws.gnb.ca/en/ShowTdm/cs/E-1.12// liation Report and Calls to Action, http://caid.ca/DTRC.html best: Province of New Brunswick 10 Year Education Plan, content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/K12/EveryoneAtTheirBes		
Compliance: I report compliance with this policy.			
Superintendent's Signature:			

**DEC Chair Signature:** 

Date: