

WHO IS AN ABORIGINAL STUDENT?

Aboriginal ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, status and non-status; Métis; and Inuit) by the student, parent or guardian—not Bands or district staff.

In the 2011-12 school year, 2133 students of Aboriginal Ancestry received enhanced service from the Aboriginal Education Program.



For further information,
please contact:

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District Principal - Aboriginal Education
250.979.2020

or

Terry-Lee Beaudry
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
250.470.3225

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Ministry of Education requires that school districts administer their Aboriginal Education Program with the guidance of an Aboriginal Education Committee or Council. This committee must have representation from the local Aboriginal community.

School District No. 23's Board of Education adopted the Aboriginal Education Council as a recognized District committee. Our District's Aboriginal Education Council has the following membership:

Westbank First Nation	3 Representatives (1 from Chief & Council; 2 appointed by Chief & Council)
Okanagan Territory	1 Elder Representative (appointed by Westbank First Nation Chief & Council)
Okanagan Indian Band	1 Representative
Okanagan Nation Alliance	1 Representative
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	2 Representatives
Kelowna Métis Association	2 Representatives
Lake Country Native Association	1 Representative
Board of Education Trustees	2 Representative
Aboriginal Parents	2 Representatives
School District Administration	3 Representatives (non-voting)

Goals will be reviewed annually and developed after consultation with District partnership groups and the Aboriginal community.



Revised January 2012



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) provides program services to students of Aboriginal heritage to enhance their school experience.

The Aboriginal Education Program includes:

- Academic Advising
- Academic Coaching
- Career Planning
- Cultural Awareness
- Personal Support

The Program logo was developed from an original art work by Will Swite and is the symbol of the Medicine Wheel, the Circle of Life. The holistic teachings of the Medicine Wheel are used to enhance school success for all Aboriginal students.

**GOALS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23's
(Central Okanagan)
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

1. To improve the level and standard of literacy at all grade levels.
2. To improve the graduation rates of Aboriginal secondary school students.
3. To offer academic and/or personal support to Aboriginal students.
4. To offer all learners an opportunity to gain a greater awareness of Aboriginal cultures and histories.



**School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Staff Who Provide Direct Support to the
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**DISTRICT PRINCIPAL OF
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

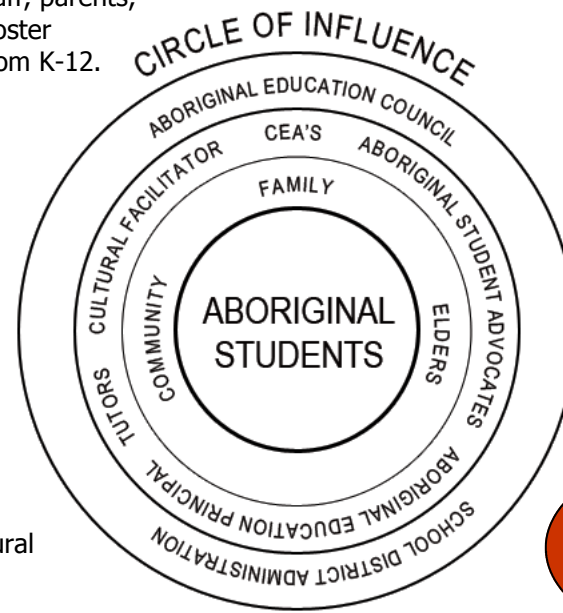
- Work with the current Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement between School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan), the Aboriginal Education Council and the Ministry of Education.
- Works with School District staff, parents, and community partners to foster Aboriginal student success from K-12.
- Provide ongoing supervision of and support for the Aboriginal Program staff.
- Oversee integration of the Okanagan Language.

**ABORIGINAL
STUDENT
ADVOCATES**

- Provide emotional, social, academic, behavioural & cultural support to students.
- Provide links between home and school.
- Work closely with teachers and other personnel to plan effectively for students.
- Help students with goal setting and career planning.
- Monitor attendance of Aboriginal students and facilitate improvement

**CULTURAL FACILITATOR &
CULTURAL ASSISTANT**

- Consult with elementary, middle and secondary school staff to facilitate integration of Aboriginal cultural teachings.
 - Provide speakers and resources for classrooms.
 - Organize Aboriginal cultural events.
 - Provide resources and support to teachers of First Nations Studies 12.
- Provide cultural support for Okanagan Language.



**CERTIFIED
EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANTS
(CEAs)**

**TEACHER
TUTORS**

- Provide academic coaching to secondary Aboriginal students

- Provide academic coaching to K-9 Aboriginal students in literacy and numeracy skills.

*"Let us put our minds together
and see what life we will make
for our children."*

Noel Starblanket