
REGULATION 6142.04

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION

In order to create an environment in which First Nations students can achieve their emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual objectives, the District will:

- work to increase First Nations retention and graduation rate by:
 - having administration encourage active participation of parents of First Nations students within the school's Parent Advisory Councils and other school committees
 - having administrators, teachers, teachers on-call, teacher assistants and counsellors as role models and support for First Nations students
 - creating First Nations classrooms that reflect the cultural heritage of students
 - encouraging the use of First Nations resources and curriculum that reflect the history of First Nations people
 - recognizing academic excellence for students in Grade 7, Grade 10 and Grade 12 through bursaries
 - supporting language skill development, math, reading and writing for First Nations students in the primary, early and late intermediate grades
 - encouraging professional development activities at the school and District level that address the needs of First Nations students
 - paying particular attention to First Nations students during their transitional years
- acknowledge participation of the First Nations people in the overall school community by consulting with:
 - Songhees and Esquimalt Nation Education Liaison workers and their Education Committees
 - District First Nations Parent Advisory Council
 - First Nations community cultural resource people

- First Nations Education Curriculum Committee
- Local First Nations community boards and organizations

- ensure that teachers of First Nations students shall be provided with the opportunity to become familiar with First Nations culture and contemporary issues

- support First Nations students by encouraging them to develop a strong personal identity and pride in their heritage

- ensure that all schools reflect the cultural heritage of First Nations people through connection with First Nations art work, library resource materials, and cultural presentations

- offer classes and courses that include the history and traditions of First Nations people

- continue support of First Nations cultural awareness activities and programs at the school level

- continue support of the distribution of the FNED newsletter

- actively recruit First Nations people for administrative positions through First Nations programs at Universities, First Nations newspapers, provincially sponsored Listservs for First Nations educators

Greater Victoria School District

Approved: May 25, 1999

POLICY 6142.04

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION

First Nations Education can be described as a circle of life that focuses on an increased awareness of the importance of self-concept and self-esteem that, in turn, encourages self-determination. Students need to balance the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical dimensions to reinforce their learning experiences. Creative learning environments can provide the opportunity for this growth and development to occur. First Nations staff believe that all students, and the District's staff, have the capacity to successfully grow, develop and change.

First Nations student education must include the involvement of people from the First Nations communities in the classroom and at the district level. Students must see First Nations people in the school system as leaders, role models, employees and active participants in district schools. First Nations involvement in the educational community will create a positive learning environment and will provide a foundation upon which the educational needs of First Nations students' will be met.

First Nations student education needs to reflect an inclusive [integrated] approach that provides a foundation for lifelong learning. First Nations people face many challenges as they strive to incorporate the demands of contemporary society, while trying to maintain their traditional cultures. The G.V.S.D. Board of Trustees recognizes and continues to support, through education, the perseverance, strength and resilience of First Nations cultures in order to ensure pride and success. The integration of culture must be affirmed as an essential part of the overall educational experience for all students. Students face many challenges as they integrate the learning tools of contemporary society within their traditional cultures. It is essential to provide a balanced education in order to teach the skills that will enable these students to encompass the best of all cultures while reinforcing traditional values.

First Nations learners' educational journey must provide equal opportunities that will enable them to maximize their potential. Parents, schools and the community must work together to encourage students to continue in school, and thus increase the graduation rate for First Nations students.

First Nations is inclusive of Metis, Inuit, status, non-status, off reserve and other indigenous people.

Greater Victoria School District

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Modification to this document is not permitted without prior written consent from the Greater Victoria School District.