

Operation of the Anishinabek Education System

1. **What is the Anishinabek Education System (AES)?**

It is a system developed by the Anishinabek First Nations to improve the quality of Anishinaabe education and to support a culture of learning. It will teach students about Anishinabek culture, language and history, as well as the knowledge and skills taught in provincial schools. It will help students and educators to meet strong educational standards.

The system will help First Nations to share resources, programs and services, and to find economies of scale. It includes centralized administration through the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body, which is accountable to the First Nations that it serves. The system lets First Nations set up local boards or councils to involve their communities in making decisions. And it helps them to cooperate with each other through five regional educational councils.

2. **What is the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB)?**

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body provides the education system with a central administration. It manages the system, and is accountable to each First Nation that it serves. It will create policies and guidelines for the education system, including the standards for the diplomas and certificates that schools award their students.

This central body will receive education funding from the federal government, and distribute it to schools on and off reserve. It will administer agreements between itself and the First Nations, and manage the education system's relationship with the provincial government.

3. **What is a Regional Education Council (REC)?**

First Nations in a region can choose to set up a council to provide them with services they might not be able to afford or obtain on their own, like specialists in learning disabilities or in physical education. They can also set up the council to coordinate their schools and their relationship with the central administration. It's up to the First Nations to decide if they want to join a regional council, and what the council would do.

4. **What is Local Education Authority (LEA)?**

Each First Nation can choose to set up a local educational authority, like a school board or an education committee. Or it can leave responsibility for education with Chief and Council. A local board or committee can run education for the First Nation, and represent it at a regional educational council.

5. What grades are covered in the Education Agreement?

The education agreement covers all grades from junior kindergarten through grade 12.

6. Who will have authority over education matters?

The First Nations will have complete authority over education on reserve. They will coordinate their education laws and manage the education system through a central administration, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. Unlike an off-reserve education department, the central education body takes its orders from the First Nations.

7. Who will develop the curriculum?

The curriculum, which describes what students are supposed to learn in each grade, will be developed by a team of educators. The First Nations will choose this team.

8. Does the Education Agreement cover tuition for students that live off-reserve to attend a school on-reserve?

No. First Nations whose schools accept off-reserve students will receive tuition money from off-reserve school boards.

9. Does the Education Agreement include funding for daycare programs?

No. Daycare will still be funded by federal and provincial programs.

10. Is Post-Secondary Education Program funding covered in the Education Agreement?

Yes. First Nations will administer funds for university, college and trades education. But they will not gain authority over any school or program above grade 12.

11. Would a First Nation without a school be able to send its Students to a First Nation school in another community?

Yes. First Nations schools can accept students from other First Nations. The First Nations that share schools will need to negotiate tuition agreements.

12. What will happen to non-status or non-member students under the Education Agreement?

All students on reserve can go to school, from junior kindergarten to grade 12. But non-status or non-member students cannot get money from the Anishinabek education system for university, college or trades education.

13. Will students be able to transfer from Anishinabek Schools without having to repeat grades or credits?

Yes.

14. Can First Nations join the Education Agreement after the Effective Date?

Yes.

15. Who are the Anishinabek First Nations accountable to in education?

The Anishinabek First Nations are accountable to their members. If they are part of the education system, they will send reports to the federal government about their education programs, services and funding.