

Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive

Jurisdiction: Northwest Territories

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Level: K – 12

Theme: Culture and language; Government or board policies; Curriculum/materials

Description of Practice:

The Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive (ALCBE Directive) for schools clarifies use of funding directed toward Aboriginal language and culture instruction.

The purpose of this Ministerial directive is to:

- Ensure the school system supports and reflects Aboriginal language and culture based education; Give direction and ensure accountability for the use of the funding provided by the GNWT to DEC's and DEAs for language and cultural programming; Provide direction and support to Boards for planning, developing, delivering, supporting and evaluating Aboriginal language and culture programming in the NWT schools;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities related to the establishment of language and culture based education programs in NWT schools.

Background:

The Government of the Northwest Territories recognized that to improve achievement of our predominantly Aboriginal school population, it was necessary to make Dene Education more meaningful for Dene students. Community consultations prior to the publication of *Learning: Tradition and Change* in 1982 indicated that people wanted culture-based education for their children.

Aboriginal language and culture funding has been allocated to Divisional Education Councils and Yellowknife District Education Authorities (DEC/YKDEAs) on the basis of the number of Aboriginal students in each district. The Minister of Education, Culture & Employment issued the Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive in September 2004.

Development:

Community consultations prior to the publication of *Learning: Tradition and Change* in 1982 indicated that people wanted culture-based education for their children. While this concept was used as a principle of curriculum development and implementation in the Northwest Territories, there was not a clear definition of how the concept might translate into day to day practice.

An ECE Culture-Based Education committee gathered information and drafted the directive, which was then reviewed by the AELI committee (Aboriginal Educators Leadership Institute). A reporting template was developed.

The directive was put in place in September 2004. In the fall of 2005, an experienced Aboriginal educator met with superintendents and board staff to provide support in implementation of the directive. In January 2006, a committee met to review the implementation of the directive and to make suggestions for revisions of the reporting template.

Evidence:

The amount of Aboriginal Language programming in schools has increased. More Aboriginal Language is being incorporated into cultural programs.

Adaptability:

As this directive was based on NWT legislation, adaptability would depend on the legislation of the jurisdiction.

Further information:

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