



# Indigenous Education



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## About Grand Erie

Grand Erie serves a diverse region of urban, rural and Indigenous communities and is committed to creating inclusive and innovative learning environments where all students can thrive. Strong leadership is essential to this commitment and supports our focus on student well-being, achievement, and equity.

## Grand Erie's Strategic Plan Collective Priorities:

We build a culture of learning to nurture curiosity and opportunity for each learner.

We build a culture of well-being to support the cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each learner.

We build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

## Department Goal

To deepen our system commitment to reconciliation and improve education achievement outcomes for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit students by:

- Engage in district-wide learning opportunities for employees to increase knowledge and understanding of local Haudenosaunee and Anishinabee culture and history and to actively engage in Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- Promote and participate in reconciliation through community engagement and authentic learning with Six Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities
- Provide human resources, curriculum supports and learning opportunities that reflect Indigenous experiences and identities to allow students to see themselves in their schools and contributes to increased student success

## Program Offerings

### Transition Events for Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Students

- "You Belong Here" Regional Event – Grade 6-8
- EPIC Jobs session, Grade 8 Days, Tech is Grand Day
- Registration Support Day
- Specialized Services Placements
- myBlueprint
- Passport Event Grade 7
- Transition Meetings – Grade 8
- Grand Pathways Events
- Grade 7 Secondary School Tours
- Future Grade 9 Parent Information Night
- Former Grad Visits
- Grade 9 Welcome Back BBQ

### NATIONS/NewStart Alternative Education Programs

The NATIONS and Newstart programs provide alternative learning for secondary students from Six Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and surrounding areas. It serves secondary students who prefer a smaller and more flexible learning environment, flexible learning environment with connections to the community.

### Land Based Learning Course Bundle – Hagersville Secondary School

The Indigenous Land-Based Learning Course Bundle provides students a learning experience that is relevant, accurate and authentic through culturally responsive curriculum that engages them to successfully complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

### GELA Adult Education - Six Nations

An on-reserve adult education program in Ohsweken that supports adult learners to earn credits and work toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

### Ratiweientehta's – They Are Learning

Grand Erie has partnered with Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services to offer an Education and Community Partnership Program (ECCP) classroom out of the Youth Lodge facility. Ganohkwasra provides therapeutic counselling and services while a Grand Erie Teacher provides individualized academic programming.

### Ohahi:yo Program

In partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services – Youth Justice Services Division, Grand Erie provides services and supports to First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth who are engaged with the youth justice system. Through a holistic approach, students are provided with individualized program planning and support toward their full re-engagement into schooling and community.

## Student Courses/Program Offerings

- Specialist High Skills Majors: Areas of focus - Indigenous Perspectives in Health and Wellness, with a focus on Lacrosse.
- Indigenous Language Courses: Mohawk, Cayuga, and Ojibway
- Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)

## First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies

**NAC10** - Expressions in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cultures

**NAC20** - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada

**NBE3E/C/U** - Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, And Inuit Voices

**NBV3C** - World Views & Aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities in Canada

**NDA3M** - Current First nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues in Canada

**NDW4M** - Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context

## Professional Development Offerings

### Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning

These collaborative opportunities allow Grand Erie staff to deepen their understanding of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning from/with the Land. Guidance will include community/elders. The collaborative inquiries concentrate on the experiential development of holistic education in Grand Erie.

### The Auntie Program

The Indigenous Education Aunties share Indigenous history through storytelling, food and Art. The program seeks to promote self confidence in Indigenous youth while also creating understanding (allyship) for non- Indigenous students.

### The Talking Circle

The Talking Circle is a practice that is used by different Indigenous Peoples. It helps build a foundational relationship within communities where safe and purposeful talk emerges.

### Indigenous Cultural Kits

Each school has a bin of books with an emphasis on Learning from the Land initiatives and supporting Days of Significance. The kit contains a list of the resources in the bin.

### Iroquois Lacrosse Program

Supporting Our Youth and the history behind what the Haudenosaunee consider a Game of Medicine and Healing. Lacrosse has been known to bring communities together and provide a means for improved mental health and well-being.

### Indigenous Map of Canada

The Indigenous Peoples Atlas Floor Map of Canada resource assists students in understanding the past, present and future of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. There is a wealth of information, and a diversity of stories and voices, on this map.

### Learning From the Land Speakers Series

Elders and Knowledge Keepers share their stories in a series of 10 videos. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 62: ii is addressed by highlighting the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms

### The Mohawk Chapel

This half-day session includes a guided tour of St. Paul's H.M. Royal Chapel of the Mohawk, led by Six Nations Tourism, offering a rich opportunity to engage with local Haudenosaunee history and stories connected to this National Historic Site. The session will support participants in connecting site-based learning to broader themes such as treaties, the role of the church in colonization, and the ongoing presence and contributions of the Haudenosaunee people.

## Woodland Cultural Centre

The Woodland Cultural Centre serves to preserve, promote and strengthen Indigenous language, cultural, art and history, bringing the story of the Haudenosaunee people to life through innovative exhibitions and programs.

This full day session includes opportunities to tour the museum, the former Mohawk Institute Residential School and explore Indigenous culture.

## “Sharing Our Voices” A National Indigenous Solidarity Day Event

The event explores our collective creativity to produce a dance, song, poem, rant or beautiful artwork to express our relationship with the water.

## Indigenous Cultural Competency Training

Indigenous Cultural Competency Training (ICCT) is designed for the development of necessary skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values that will support participants in building meaningful and informed relationships with urban Indigenous communities.

## Indigenous Speakers Series

Community speakers provide learning and insight into Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

## First Nation Métis and Inuit Studies AQ

Educators have access to Additional Qualification opportunities as post-Secondary Institutions which include:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples – Understanding Traditional Teachings, Histories, Current Issues and Culture
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies

## Student Voice

### Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative (ISLI)

**Goal:** To provide culturally authentic leadership development opportunities and experiences that will empower students to become agents of change within their schools, the district and communities.

#### Objectives

- Enhance feelings of inclusion and belonging for Indigenous students.
- Increase levels of Indigenous student engagement at school and in community.
- Grow Indigenous student confidence, skills and capacity to serve and lead in their schools and communities.
- Establish a recognized space for Indigenous student voice within school and district.
- Deepen all staff and student understanding of Indigenous cultures and communities.

### United Indigenous Student Council (UISC)

Student Representatives from Grand Erie schools gather throughout the year to learn and collaborate with one another.

### Jordan's Principle Funding

Jordan's Principle is a federal government initiative that is applicable and accessible to all status First Nations, Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit children/youth, whether a resident on or off reserve. Jordan's Principle addresses the needs of children/youth by providing funding to parent(s)/caregiver(s), or to an organization providing services in an effort to ensure that there are no gaps in service. Jordan's Principle can be, but is not limited to, addressing of gaps in such services as social, cultural, health and educational supports.

### First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Self-Identification

To better meet the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students, Grand Erie provides a voluntary self-identification process to ensure that all parent(s)/caregiver(s) for FNMI students have the opportunity to voluntarily self-identify as Indigenous. The data collected will be shared with the schools, board, and the Ministry of Education in order to assess the progress in improving FNMI student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being and belonging.

### Committees

#### Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

IEAC provides guidance for Grand Erie to support building and maintaining strong relationships with Indigenous communities, share information, identify promising practices, and enhance collaboration to support First Nation, Metis and Inuit student achievement and well-being. Grand Erie's IEAC promotes, enhances and improves Indigenous Education for all students.

#### Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC)

The purpose of the Six Nations Advisory Committee is to ensure that the educational services purchased through the Education Services Agreement are delivered at a high-quality level, and to represent the interests of the students from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory enrolled in Grand Erie schools. This is achieved by providing the board with appropriate and accurate advice on matters related to their students' education.

### Staff Roles

- Indigenous System Leader
- Indigenous Education Teacher Consultant
- Education Service Agreement Six Nations Advisor - Teacher Consultant
- Education Service Agreement Six Nations Counsellor
- Education Service Agreement Community Liaison
- Indigenous Graduation Coach
- Indigenous Re-engagement Counsellor
- Indigenous Education Child and Youth Worker





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## Grand Erie District School Board

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