

Model Local Education Agreement

For more information, please see the [Model LEA policy](#).

1. What is an LEA?

- A Local Education Agreement is a contractual agreement between a First Nation and a board of education regarding the purchase of educational programs and services by the First Nation from the board, and relationships between the parties.
- LEAs serve as a mechanism by which First Nations may have a direct relationship with the board in respect of First Nation students living on-reserve and attending schools operated by a board off-reserve.

2. What is the Model Local Education Agreement (Model LEA)?

- The purpose of the Model LEA is to serve as an option that a First Nation may apply to the First Nation and a board.
- The Model LEA includes proposed minimum standards for an effective LEA, including terms and conditions regarding the purchase of educational programs and services and how the First Nation and board will work together to support improved First Nation student outcomes and attendance.
- The Model LEA is intended to reflect a minimum standard of LEAs across the province.

3. Why is the Model LEA only available to First Nations and Treaty First Nations?

- Only First Nations (i.e. band or First Nations with treaty or self-government agreement) with students who live on-reserve, or on lands of a modern treaty nation or subject to a self-government agreement, purchase education services from boards of education using funds provided by Canada for those students.
- The Model LEA can only be applied if there is no existing LEA in place. If a First Nation has an LEA in place and wants to apply the Model LEA, the First Nation would need to conclude or terminate the current LEA according to the provisions in that agreement.

4. Is it better to negotiate an LEA or apply the Model LEA?

- This is a decision that is made by the First Nation. The First Nation may wish to discuss options with the board prior to making this decision.
- The Model LEA also serves as an available precedent for a First Nation and a board, if the First Nation and board wish to negotiate their own LEA.
- ECC and FNESC encourage boards and First Nations to negotiate an LEA if a First Nation so desires it, to ensure that the LEA is tailored to the needs and circumstances of the First Nation and board.
- First Nations and boards are also encouraged to review the Model LEA to inform the development of negotiated LEAs or amendment of existing LEAs, by agreement.

5. Can a tribal council apply the Model LEA?

- No, the Model LEA may be applied by a First Nation as defined in the School Act, meaning a band as defined under the Indian Act in BC, self-governing First Nation, or modern treaty nation, to a board.
- Individual First Nations who are members of a tribal council could each choose to apply the Model LEA, or a tribal council could seek to reach agreement with a board on a negotiated LEA for the First Nations that make up its membership.

6. Why does the term of the Model LEA start on July 1st?

- July 1st is the start of the school year. The term of the Model LEA starts on this date to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Model LEA, including tuition transfer, align with school year financials.