

Indigenous Education Councils

– Initial Implementation



Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) are intended to reflect and support the distinct and diverse Indigenous student population in their school district, while respecting local First Nations in whose territories the board and the IEC operate. Each board of education must establish and maintain an IEC.

STEP 1: A board must invite each local First Nations to designate two persons (or more) to be members of the IEC, and the board must appoint those persons designated.

1.

The First Nation(s) determine who their representative is. This may be a member of Chief and Council, an education coordinator, an Elder, etc.

It is up to First Nations to decide whether to accept an invitation to designate representatives to an IEC, and who to designate as representatives.

STEP 2: Using their student data, a board must consider the distinctions and diversity of the Indigenous student population served by the board and **must seek the advice of local First Nations** on establishing an IEC that reasonably reflects that Indigenous student population.

2.

The board must then invite additional persons to the IEC that bring perspectives relevant to the Indigenous student population. Such persons may be individuals who bring perspectives of local First Nation students, First Nation students from other parts of British Columbia or outside of BC, Métis students, or Inuit students.

The board must endeavor to achieve an IEC where the total number of representatives of local First Nations are not outnumbered by the additional representatives.



3.

STEP 3: Once established, **an IEC creates its own Terms of Reference**, including determining a decision-making process. This is one of the first tasks of the newly formed IEC. Template IEC Terms of Reference are provided – and are expected to be used as the minimum standard Terms of Reference for an IEC.



REMINDERS

1. Boards will maintain **secretariat and administrative support** for the IEC, including covering reasonable costs of holding meetings and IEC member travel to attend meetings when they are held in-person.
2. **IEC capacity funding** for the 2024/25 school year has been provided as a targeted grant to cover costs associated with establishing and maintaining IECs, including secretariat support, activities, and costs related to IECs carrying out their purposes. For clarity, IECs will approve and be involved in the planning, spending, and reporting of IEC Capacity Funding.
3. Once established, an IEC may create its own rules related to inviting non-voting guests to attend IEC meetings, consistent with the *School Act* and the IEC Order. **School board trustees and employees are not eligible to be voting members of an IEC**, pursuant to section 87.004 (2) of the *School Act*.
4. A board **must seek the input and advice**, and obtain the approval, of the IEC on the board's Indigenous Education Targeted Funding (IETF) plans, spending, and any reporting. For clarity, **the board may only implement the IETF plan with IEC approval**. The minimum amount of IETF spending is set by the Ministry. IETF spending must align with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's IETF policy.
5. **An IEC advises and makes recommendations to the board on supporting the Indigenous student population**. The IEC members bring forward perspectives relevant to the distinctions and diversity among that student population, while being respectful of the perspectives of local First Nations.
6. A board must seek the advice of **local First Nations on any matter relating to the distinct languages, cultures, customs, traditions, practices, or history of the local First Nations**, and must consult with those First Nations on how those matters may be integrated into learning environments or staff training offered by the board.
7. A board must consult the IEC on procedures **to recruit and hire staff** that develop and deliver programs and services for Indigenous students, or whose roles involve significant interaction with Indigenous students. Consultation may include reviewing proposed job descriptions, advising on posting or sharing current job opportunities to reach potential candidates, and IEC participation in hiring processes.