

Nipisihkopahk Education Authority

PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK



PROVIDING A SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS OF THE MASKWACIS CREE

We wish to acknowledge the work of the Nipisihkopahk Education Authority Board of Education and Staff in pulling together the information needed to make this a meaningful document for all stakeholders at Nipisihkopahk Education Authority and Samson Cree Nation. We would also like to acknowledge the work from Samson Cree Nation and Kitigàn Zìbì Kikinàmàdinàn. Thank you.

Nipisihkopahk Education Authority
Board of Education

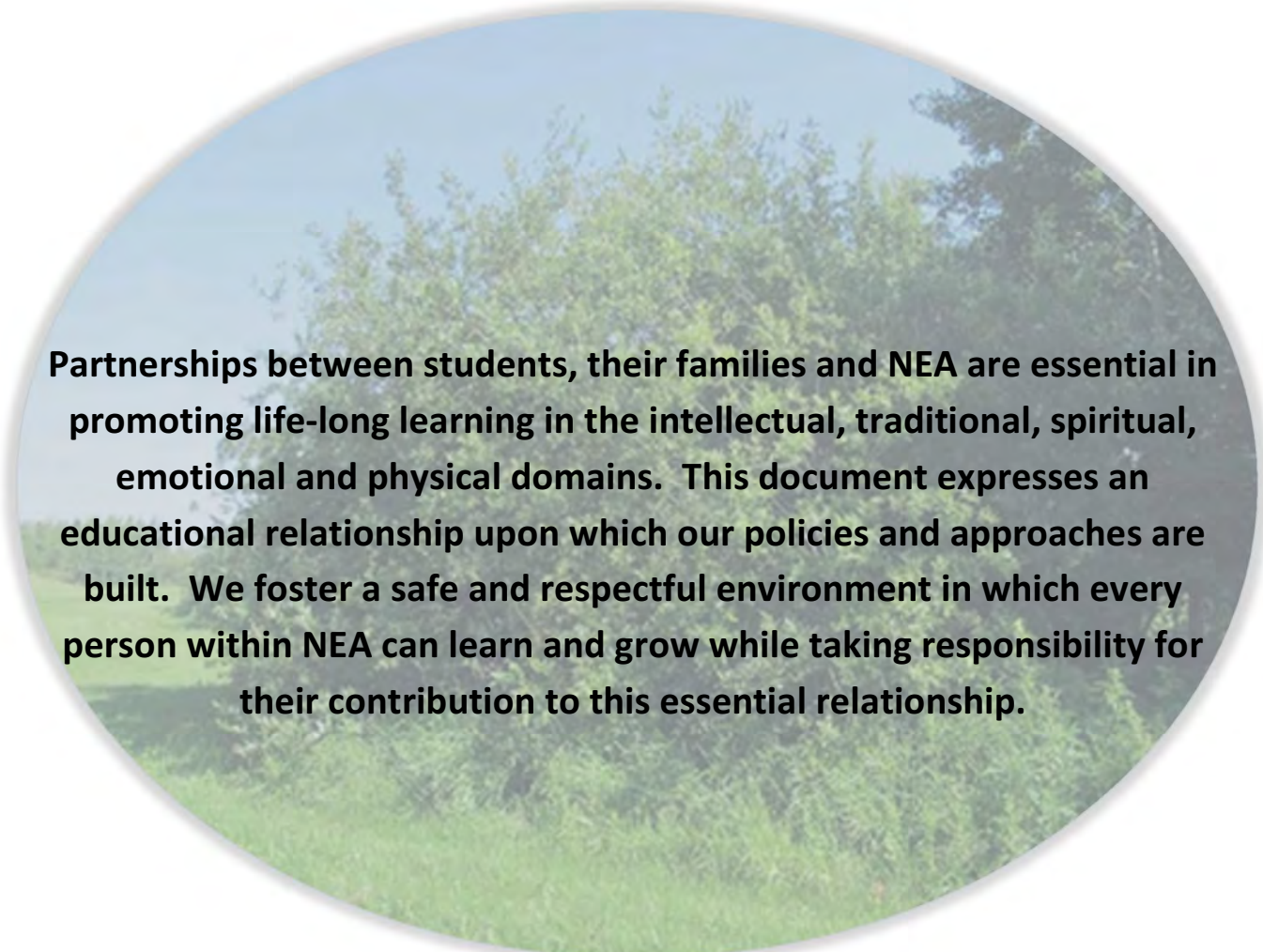

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Partnerships between students, their families and NEA are essential in promoting life-long learning in the intellectual, traditional, spiritual, emotional and physical domains. This document expresses an educational relationship upon which our policies and approaches are built. We foster a safe and respectful environment in which every person within NEA can learn and grow while taking responsibility for their contribution to this essential relationship.

This Nipishkopahk Parent and Student Handbook will incorporate four approaches:

1. The Culturally Holistic Approach (based on traditional Maskwacis values)
2. The Personalized Student Learning Approach (nurturing the academic needs of each student)
3. The Effective Partnerships Approach (a positive behaviour approach for all partners)
4. The Safe School Approach (a defined strategy for school discipline creating a Safe and Caring School Environment)

By implementing these four approaches, NEA students will have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Each of us has the responsibility to ensure the success of our students. Students, parents/guardians, volunteers, community members, teachers and other staff members are all a part of this important educational relationship.

1. The Culturally Holistic Approach

A guiding principle of our Culturally Holistic Approach is that of the traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree. We endeavour to instil these teachings throughout the school community, by celebrating our culture and encouraging a sense of belonging. We strive to partner with parents and community to develop within each student the ability to take personal responsibility and to become positive contributing members of society. In doing so, we Honor, Promote and Live our Traditional values:

Wahkohtowin (Kinship)

Sakihtowin (Loving)

Kitimakehitowin (Caring)

Nehiyaw manitonehcikan/pitmatisiwin (Cree thought & way of Life)

Wiyatikosowin (Happiness)

Wicihtowin (Sharing)

Nanaskomowin (Thankfulness)

Kakisimowin (Prayer)

Kistehtowin (Respect)

Pohnetamowin (Forgiveness)

Tapwewin (Truth)

We all have the responsibility to ensure that our students develop an intrinsic understanding and practice of the traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree. It is a mutual commitment to these goals that will ensure success.

2. The Personalized Student Learning Approach (nurturing the academic needs of each student)

Our schools are directed by a local school board, operated by an administration team, funded by the Federal Government, and accredited by Alberta Education. We are an inclusive school system allowing all students the opportunity to be successful. Our expectation is that all students will graduate from their program. NEA strives to indigenize the Alberta Program of Studies, making it more culturally relevant for our students.

3. The Effective Partnerships Approach (a positive behaviour approach for all partners)

Students, parents/guardians, teachers and staff, volunteers and community members are all essential to an effective educational relationship. We must maintain positive partnerships to ensure that the learning environment meets the needs of our students and guides them towards becoming respectful and responsible members of society. The adults in the students' lives must be the role models to help them attain this goal.

Student Rights/Teacher Rights/Parent Rights

Student Rights	<p>RIGHT to an education</p> <p>RIGHT to attend a safe and drug / alcohol-free school</p> <p>RIGHT to freedom of speech and expression that is respectful and not offensive to others</p> <p>RIGHT to equal protection</p> <p>RIGHT to not be discriminated against</p> <p>RIGHT to due process under NEA policies</p> <p>RIGHT to respect on social media</p>
Teacher Rights	<p>RIGHT to be treated with respect</p> <p>RIGHT to feel safe in the work environment</p> <p>RIGHT to respect on social media</p>
Parent Rights	<p>RIGHT to be informed about their child's academic and social progress in an appropriate time frame</p> <p>RIGHT to discuss their child's needs with the teacher and the administration team</p> <p>RIGHT to be informed about conflict resolution strategies for their child</p> <p>RIGHT to respect on social media</p>

Student Responsibilities/Teacher Responsibilities /Parent Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities	<p>RESPONSIBLE for attending school on a regular basis and being on time</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for completing all academic work as assigned when present or absent</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for bringing all appropriate supplies to class</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for obeying school rules and federal and provincial laws</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for respecting the rights of others</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for their own actions</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for using technology in an appropriate way</p>
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<p>Teacher Responsibilities</p>	<p>RESPONSIBLE for following and adhering to NEA policies and school procedures</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for planning effective lessons and maintaining a classroom environment conducive to learning</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for providing differentiated instruction according to students' needs</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for assessing student progress using standard evaluation practices</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for reporting on student progress in a clear and objective manner</p>
<p>Parent Responsibilities</p>	<p>RESPONSIBLE for promoting effective learning by providing nutritional, psychological, and environmental support for their child</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for understanding and supporting the expectations and responsibilities as outlined in this handbook</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for talking to their children about their responsibilities and the expectations for a successful year</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for working in partnership with the school staff members to solve any discipline issues</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for attending all reporting and information sessions for constructive feedback on their child's progress</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for attending all meetings requested by the teacher and/or administration team</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for giving your current telephone number, home address, work telephone number and emergency contact numbers to the school; informing the school if you change address' and updating phone numbers, especially when they are no longer in service (cell or home phones)</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for contacting the school regarding their child's absence</p> <p>RESPONSIBLE for restitution for any damage done to school property by their child</p>

Student Privileges

Student Privileges	Participation in lunch hour, after school, and out of school activities. Participation in special events/activities organized by the school
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Privileges may be revoked if students are not meeting their responsibilities.

4. The Safe School Approach (a defined strategy for school discipline creating a Safe and Caring School Environment)

***“TEACHERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO TEACH,
STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEARN,
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE
WITH THESE TWO RIGHTS”***

Student Policies

ATTENDANCE	<p>Students missing for 20 consecutive days will result in voluntary removal from school register. Students requesting re-admittance will be required to meet with school administration team.</p> <p>Teachers must enact attendance procedures after a student has missed three consecutive days without documentation.</p>
TARDINESS (LATE)	<p>Parent/Guardian must inform school when a student will be late: Any students with recurring incidents of tardiness must be referred to admin team. Continual tardiness will result in a behaviour violation and subject to its consequences.</p>
DRESS CODE	<p>Student attire at school should be suitable for learning activities. Just as there is a mode of dress suited to office work, the playing field or gymnasium, various informal and formal functions, there is also a mode of dress suited to classroom learning and educational activities. To that end, students are expected to dress in a clean, neat and appropriate manner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refraining from wearing headwear in the classroom except for medical or religious reasons or unless required by the teacher for educational reasons.• Wearing clothing void of pictures or slogans displaying drugs, alcohol, violence, racism, profanity or making direct or indirect sexual suggestion.• Wearing clothing that covers the chest, back, midriff and buttocks. The bottom of the shirt/top must touch the top of the pants/skirt and necklines should be modest so that no cleavage shows.• Wearing clothing which covers, physically and visually, all undergarments all of the time.• Wearing clothing that represents or would seem affiliated with gangs• Wearing footwear at all times for health and safety reasons.

	<p>Student failing to meet the above dress code will be referred to the administrative team. Student will have the option of meeting the dress code by removing headwear, putting of footwear or “covering up” by putting on school-approved or school provided clothing or they will be sent home to change their clothing before they will be permitted to return to school. In the event of continued disregard of the dress code, students will be suspended and a meeting will be arranged between the student, parent, and administrative team.</p>
<p>BEHAVIOURAL VIOLATIONS</p>	<p>All Students involved will be referred to admin team. Grounds for disciplinary action that lead to referral to admin team include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conduct or behaviour which interferes with the learning environment b) conduct or behaviour which threatens the safety of students and/or staff; c) possession of a weapon that is dangerous to students and staff; A weapon is anything used, designed to be used or intended for use in causing harm, injury or death to any person, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person. d) displaying, concealing, or brandishing a weapon in a threatening or intimidating manner; e) assaulting another person; f) trafficking, possession, use, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, or inhalants in school and on school property; g) theft; h) willful disobedience and/or open opposition to authority; l) use or display of improper or profane language or images; j) willful damage to school or others' property; k) interfering with the orderly conduct of class(es) or the school; l) use of technology such as computers, cameras, cell phones, and other equipment for purposes that are illegal, unethical, immoral, or inappropriate. m) Breaking any school policies

CONSEQUENCES

Failure to meet the expectations for behaviour and conduct shall result in some or all of the following consequences. Reasonable efforts will be made to inform Parent /Guardian of incident and action taken.

- a) problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behaviour expectation with student and reprimand;
- b) parental involvement;
- c) referral to the School Liaison or designate;
- d) temporary removal of privileges;
- e) detention of student;
- f) temporary exclusion of student from class;
- g) in-school suspension;
- h) out-of-school suspension;
- l) re-admittance conditions, which may include outside cultural and/or wellness counselling / programs;
- j) behaviour contract with student;
- k) restitution for property damage to an individual or Nipisihkopahk Education Authority;
- l) assessment of student to develop appropriate programming;
- m) involvement of police;
- n) transfer from a school into an alternate education program such as home school or outreach program;
- o) transfer from a school to another school;
- p) expulsion from Nipisihkopahk Education Authority's schools.

All policies have the right of appeal and all appeals must be in writing to the superintendent.



NIPISHKOPAHK EDUCATION AUTHORITY

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