



SCHOOL GROWTH PLANNING POLICY

DM Approval:

Effective Date: DRAFT

GENERAL INFORMATION

The *Education Act* provides that each school administration must prepare a school growth plan that contains the school's goals and educational priorities for the school. Teachers have the right to participate in the preparation of the school growth plan, and each School Council must review, modify if necessary, and approve the school growth plan.

The Act further provides that every school administration, in consultation with the local Yukon First Nation, must include in the school program activities relevant to the culture, heritage, traditions, and practices of the local Yukon First Nation.

School administrators and Area Superintendents are responsible for the implementation of the school growth plan for a school.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines, standards, conditions, and procedures for the development of School Growth Plans for schools.

DEFINITIONS

'School Growth Plan' means the annual plan prepared for each school by the school administration in collaboration with school staff, the School Council or School Board, the Area Superintendent and the local Yukon First Nation and which contains the goals and educational priorities for the school.

'School Growth Planning Team' means the team, chaired by the school principal, that is responsible for developing the School Growth Plan for a school.

POLICY STATEMENT

A. Principles of School Growth Planning

School Growth Plans are intended to:

- Improve the educational success of the students at the school.
- Engage the local Yukon First Nation, the School Council or School Board, and the school community in the work to improve the educational success of the students at the school.
- Identify and implement the best ways to support improvement efforts at the school.

B. Goals for School Plans

Improving the educational success of all students at the school is the fundamental goal for all School Growth Plans.

School Growth Plans are also a means by which school administrators will meet their obligation under the *Education Act* to, in consultation with the local Yukon First Nation, include in the school program activities relevant to the culture, heritage, traditions and practices of the local Yukon First Nation.

1. Criteria for Success

The department and schools will collaborate with the School Council or School Board and the local Yukon First Nation to ensure that all school growth plans outline criteria for success as well as the evidence that will be used to monitor progress towards achieving the criteria.

2. Goals

Taking into consideration the local needs of each school community, School Growth Plans must focus on achieving the following priorities:

- improving the academic achievement of all students at the school, and reducing academic achievement gaps among students;
- improving the services and supports provided for inclusive education at the school;
- including activities relevant to the culture, heritage, traditions, and practices of the local Yukon First Nation at all levels in the school; and
- promoting student engagement and well-being at school and engaging parents in the education of their children.

C. Standards and Procedures

3. Composition of School Growth Planning Teams

All School Growth Planning Teams shall be chaired by the school administrator and include a balance of membership from students, school staff members including paraprofessionals, School Councils or School Boards, and the local Yukon First Nation.

It is the responsibility of the school and the department to make every effort to include local First Nation representation on all School Growth Planning teams, and additionally to ensure that there is equitable representation on the team, including, where possible, the presence of an Elder from the local Yukon First Nation.

4. Implementation of School Growth Plans

The implementation of School Growth Plans should proceed in manageable stages, and School Growth Plans should contain a small number of objectives and priorities that are consistently pursued over a sustained period of time.

The department and schools will work together to ensure that School Growth Plans include measures (e.g. collaborative time, professional development, financial, and other support) that assist schools to meet the goals set out in their School Growth Plan.

D. Annual Reporting

A summary report of the School Growth Plans will be provided by the Deputy Minister to the Minister of Education on an annual basis.

The Department of Education will ensure that the goals and objectives from School Growth Plans are included in the Department of Education's Annual Report that is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School Planning Teams are responsible for developing the School Growth Plan for each school.

The School Council or School Board is responsible for reviewing, modifying if necessary, and approving the school growth plan for each school.

Teachers and other school staff have the right to participate in the preparation of the school growth plan for their school.

Principals are responsible for the implementation of the school growth plan.

Department of Education staff are responsible for providing support to the school planning and review processes, and the implementation of school growth plans.

Area Superintendents are responsible for ensuring that a summary report of the school growth plans for the schools they supervise are completed each year.

Principals and Area Superintendents are responsible for ensuring that local Yukon First Nations are given every opportunity to have equitable representation on School Growth Planning Team, including, where possible, the participation of an Elder from the local Yukon First Nation.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all staff of the Department of Education as well as School Councils, School Boards, and all other members of the school community.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

In situations where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or an unintended result, the decision may be based on the individual merits and facts of the situation. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective DRAFT.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFERENCES

Education Act s. 55, ss. 113 (1) (a), ss. 114 (2), ss. 168 (l), ss. 169 (q), ss. 186 (1) (k).

HISTORY

School Growth Planning Policy, effective November 19, 2009, amended effective January 1, 2013; amended effective DRAFT.