



*School District No. 42 Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows*

## **Aboriginal Education**

20905 Wicklund Avenue, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 8E8

Phone: (604) 466-6265 Fax: (604) 466-6265

<http://schools.sd42.ca/abed/>



Dear Parents and Students,

We would like to introduce you to our Aboriginal Education department and explain what Self Identification is and how you can register your child. "Self-Identification of Aboriginal Ancestry" is an easy process that allows your child to access additional school supports from the Aboriginal Education Department. If you have First Nations, Metis, or Inuit ancestry anywhere in your family line this opportunity may be of interest to you.

### **Who Can Self-Identify as an Aboriginal Student?**

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (status or non-status), Metis, or Inuit Ancestry. No documentation is required, and the ancestry can go back several generations.

### **Why Should I Self-Identify?**

We encourage all students of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit Ancestry to complete a Self-Identification form as this allows you to access various supports and programs during the school year. These include academic supports, social/emotional supports, and cultural activities.

Some families are hesitant to self-identify because of negative past experiences, or because of concerns their child will be singled out or made to feel uncomfortable. We want to assure you we are sensitive to these views and will support your child in whatever way is most comfortable.

### **How do I Self-Identify?**

There are 3 ways:

1. Fill out the form attached to this email and email or scan it to [abed@sd42.ca](mailto:abed@sd42.ca)
2. Download a form from the Aboriginal Education web site: <https://abed.sd42.ca/>  
(The form is under the "parents tab")
3. Pick a form up from the office at the school your child will be attending.

You can return it to us by:

1. E-mail it to [abed@sd42.ca](mailto:abed@sd42.ca)
2. Fax it to 604-466-6265
3. Return it to the school your student is/will be attending

**Kirsten Urdahl-Serr, Principal of Aboriginal Education:**

**Phone: 604-466-6265**

**Email: [Kirsten\\_Urdahl-Serr@sd42.ca](mailto:Kirsten_Urdahl-Serr@sd42.ca)**



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### **Questions?**

#### **Will my child be pulled out of class for extra supports?**

*When we take students from class for support it is done in alignment with existing support plans that have been developed by either the classroom teacher or the school-based support team. You can request that your child remains in class for additional support.*

*Some programs such as Grade 6 IGNITE Camp, Student Leadership, and visits to post-secondary institutions require students to miss class. These types of activities require signed field trip permission forms, so your child will participate only if you agree.*

#### **What types of support are available?**

*Aboriginal Education supports can take the form of additional academic support, field trips or activity camps, or visits to post-secondary institutions. We also offer cultural programs and activities in some schools. Often, the Aboriginal Education staff are simply another adult who is "looking out" for your child; someone to make a positive connection; someone to "be there" if your child wants to talk or get help with anything.*

*In Secondary Schools, we track all Aboriginal student progress for Grades 8-12 and we do our best to make sure each student is on track to graduate. If any students require additional supports, we either provide them directly or we work with other school support staff to ensure students receive the help they need.*

*Each year we host the Aboriginal Achievement Awards. These are held for students in Grades 10-12 and are in addition to school-based Awards ceremonies. At this event we recognize student achievement in Grades 10-12, with a special recognition of our graduating students.*

#### **Can I self-identify and choose to not receive extra supports**

*In some cases parents and students choose to self-identify, but do not want us to provide additional supports. Our funding regulations require us to maintain regular contact with all students who have self-identified; however, this contact does not have to be in the form of specific academic supports. Our goal is to work with parents and students to determine the type and amount of support and/or contact that is comfortable and useful for each student. Some of our supports might include: monitoring attendance and academic progress, special events or field trips that might be of interest, or simply checking in with your child.*

#### **How can I find out who the Aboriginal Education staff members are at my child's school?**

*You can ask at the school office, check on the Aboriginal Education website, or call us at the Aboriginal Education office (604-466-6265)*

#### **Who do I contact with other questions?**

*Please contact Kirsten Urdahl-Serr by email at [Kirsten\\_Urdahl-Serr@sd42.ca](mailto:Kirsten_Urdahl-Serr@sd42.ca) or by phone at 604-466-6265*



**Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis or Inuit Ancestry. No documentation other than this self-identification is required and the ancestry can go back several generations.**

**Parent/Guardian Consultation**

Student's Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
(month/day/year)

Non -Status:  Status:  Métis:  Inuit:

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Pupil #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Aboriginal Education Programs/Services**  
(Not all programs/services are available in all schools)

- Home-School Liaison/Support (home visits, phone calls, etc.)
- Leadership Opportunities Grade 6-12
- Course Selection/Credit development
- Cultural events/presentations
- Graduation/Scholarship/Bursary /Post-Secondary Information
- Academic Support
- Student Advocacy
- Development of Sense of Place
- Ancestral Pride
- Post-Secondary Information Session

Other Request: \_\_\_\_\_

The information on this form is collected under the authority of the *School Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* and pursuant to School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) Board Policy 5700 and Board Procedures 5700.1 and 5700.2. The information will be used by the School District for the purposes of offering, delivering, and/or administering Aboriginal Education Programs/Services to students. If you have any questions or concerns about the collection, use or disclosure of the personal information collected please email [privacy@sd42.ca](mailto:privacy@sd42.ca).

**I, as the parent or legal guardian of this student, give my consent to the collection, use and disclosure of the personal information included in this form. I acknowledge that my child is of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Metis or Inuit) and I am aware of the programs and services available through the Aboriginal Education Program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date signed)

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS: PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY SCANNING OR EMAILING IT TO [abed@sd42.ca](mailto:abed@sd42.ca) ,OR RETURNING IT TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

*If you have any questions or require further clarification, please email [sharon\\_hack@sd42.ca](mailto:sharon_hack@sd42.ca), or call (604) 466-6265*

**For Office Use Only: (If consultation is other than in person)**

Consultation via: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Consulted with: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date