

Education Services Agreement

Progress Report

2024-25



Six Nations Students





Grand Erie Land Acknowledgement

Grand Erie District School Board recognizes **Six Nations of the Grand River** and **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**, as the longstanding peoples of this territory.

We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all **First Nations**, **Métis** and **Inuit Peoples** who reside within Grand Erie District School Board.

We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

Education Service Agreement Report Six Nations Students



Executive Summary

The Education Services Agreement for Six Nations Students is an agreement between the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), on behalf of Six Nations of the Grand River, that outlines the services, programs and supports that were provided to students from Six Nations that attend Grand Erie schools. This report highlights the work of the 2024-25 school year, specifically related to the progress of these students and the team whose work emerges from this Education Services Agreement: the Six Nations Advisory Committee, the Six Nations Trustee, the Six Nations Advisor, the Six Nations Education Counsellors and the Six Nations Community Liaison.

Grand Erie's Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Grand Erie's Multi-Year Strategic Plan includes the following priorities around **Learning**, **Well-Being** and **Belonging**:

- We build a culture of **learning** to nurture curiosity and opportunity for each learner;
- We build a culture of **well-being** to support the cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each learner;
- We build a culture of **belonging** to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

The 2024-25 Board Action Plan for Indigenous Students provided initiatives that directly impacted Six Nations students including:

- Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative
- Transition to Secondary School Activities for Grade 8 students at all schools
- Professional development activities for educators



Executive Summary

Moving Forward

Throughout the 2024-25 school year Grand Erie worked to ensure supports have been put into place that align with the Annual Learning and Operating Plan with Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging as the collective priorities. To support this work, efforts have been made by the Indigenous Education Team, Six Nations Education Counsellors and Indigenous Cultural Mentors Graduation Coaches who work directly with students, to monitor progress from registration to graduation. Several on-going initiatives have also been put into place to support students across the district and within communities. Highlights of this work include:

Deliver Indigenous courses that allow students to see themselves in their learning

1. Indigenous language courses in Mohawk, Cayuga, and Ojibwe
2. Secondary online language courses offered as reach ahead opportunities for students in Grade 8
3. Land-Based Learning course bundle at Hagersville Secondary
4. Grade 11 English Course: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices)
5. Lacrosse focused Specialist High Skills Major at McKinnon Park

Authentic learning with Indigenous peoples, communities and perspectives

1. Opportunities for teacher requests for community supports
2. Cultural Speakers
3. Dedicated spaces in school to support Indigenous students
4. Collaboration with local artists, musicians, and community leaders

Professional development to actively engage in Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

1. Land-based learning embedded in system professional development
2. Indigenous Professional Learning Environment (PLE) in Brightspace for staff
3. Professional Development which included Indigenous Cultural Competency Training through Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centers

Promote and participate in reconciliation community engagement opportunities

1. Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative
2. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
3. Information sessions, events and activities for transitions from grade 9
4. Indigenous Speaker Series and community guest speakers



Executive Summary

Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC)

The purpose of Grand Erie's Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC) is to represent the interests of students from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in maintaining quality educational services purchased through the Education Services Agreement and to ensure that Board members are appropriately advised in matters related to the education of these students.

Committee Composition

Claudine VanEvery-Albert

Six Nations Trustee of the Board

Elaine Thomas

Trustee of the Board

Kevin Graham

Superintendent responsible for Indigenous Education

Stacy Hill**Danielle VanEvery**

Six Nations Advisors to the Board

Carly Vyse

Indigenous Education Counsellor
Hagersville Secondary School

Carey Vyse

Indigenous Education Counsellor
Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School
Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School

Delby Powless

Indigenous Education Counsellors
McKinnon Park Secondary School

Ashlee Williams

Community Liaison Worker

Deneen Montour

Principal Leader of Indigenous Education

Sandra Graham

Six Nations Federal Schools Representative

JoAnna Roberto

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

Audrey Powless-Bomberry

Representative appointed by Six Nations
Elected Council

Susan Troniak

Indigenous Services Canada Director of Education
responsible for Six Nations

Travis Anderson

Six Nations Elected Council Education Portfolio Holder

Aidyn Hill

Grand Erie District School Board
Indigenous Student Trustee

Amanda General

Kawennio Immersion School representative

Caroline VanEvery-Albert

Everlasting Tree School representative

A Message from the Six Nations Trustee



Dear Six Nations Community:

I am pleased to share with you this Education Services Agreement (ESA) Annual Report for the 2024-25 school year.

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Six Nations students who attend Grand Erie under the Six Nations ESA. It also provides information on student attendance which is critical for success in school. Another piece of information in this report shows a summary of the Education Quality and Accountability Office of Ontario known as EQAO for grades nine and ten. We hope that these statistics will provide the community with important information about your children who attend Grand Erie secondary schools.

Each year for the past three years the Grand Erie and the Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC) offers to the Six Nations community an Annual General Meeting (AGM). This meeting not only provides a summary of the work of the students but it also showcases the academic work and the social activities that support Six Nations students in secondary school. For the upcoming school year 2025-26 we are hoping to provide the AGM earlier in the year before the end of the first semester. We hope that many parents will attend this event so that they can see what is provided for your students. A date for this event will follow the presentation of this report to Six Nations Elected Council and the Six Nations community. We invite you to attend.

Recently Six Nations staff along with Grand Erie staff have decided to move away from the provincially mandated Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) and with the support of the Board initiated our own Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC) which works for the best interest of Six Nations students under the ESA of which there were 469. The members of the committee include staff hired under the ESA, Grand Erie senior staff and members of the Six Nations community. SNAC meets four times per year, two meetings in the first semester and two meetings in semester. Each meeting is designed to share information about the students and their success and identify where academic



Claudine VanEvery-Albert
Represents Six Nations
Students Under The ESA



or social support is needed.

If anyone reading this document is interested in sitting on SNAC as a Six Nations community member, we would be pleased to have you join us. Please contact myself at the phone number or email provided within this document.

When I first came to the board in 1998 there were only two Six Nations employees in the Grand Erie District School Board. Today we have 17 indigenous staff members in Grand Erie which includes five who are hired directly under the Six Nations Education Services Agreement (ESA) formerly known as a tuition agreement. There are more than 10 other Indigenous staff members in Grand Erie who are funded by the Board's budget, many of whom are Six Nations people.

For further information, I am presently Grand Erie's representative on the board of the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and within that organization I am also a member of the Indigenous Trustees Council (ITC) that provides us with a voice in Ontario education.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, please feel free to contact me.

Niawenkowah.

Claudine-Yakowennatoken
Grand Erie 2024-25

Final Data Report 2024-25

This report provides aggregated data for students from Six Nations of the Grand River in Grade 9.

Data Includes:

- Enrolment numbers
- Attendance records
- Suspension totals
- Secondary school credit accumulation by grade
- EQAO scores for grades 9 and 10
- IEP data by exceptionality

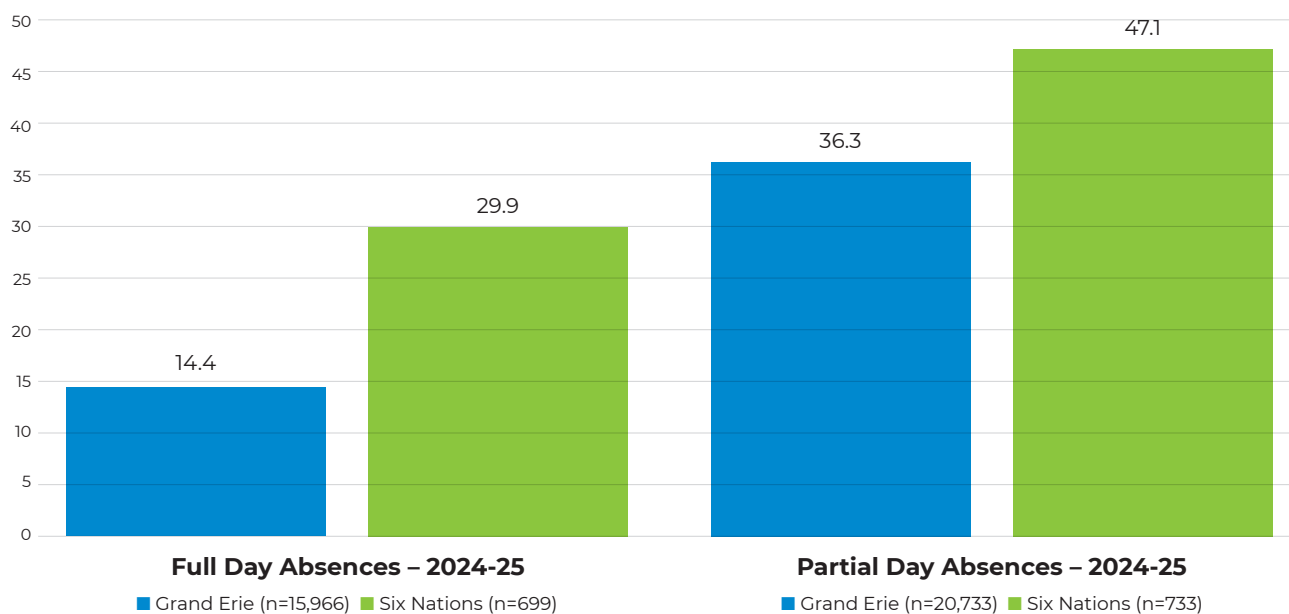
Grade	Number of Students
9	99
10	121
11	85
12	164
Total	469

Grade	Number of Students
Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School	74
Cayuga Secondary School	<6
Delhi District Secondary School	<6
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives	4
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - ILC	42
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - Night School	<6
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - Summer School	59
Hagersville Secondary School	93
McKinnon Park Secondary School	149
North Park Collegiate and Vocational School	<6
Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School	16
Tollgate Technological Skills Centre	21
Waterford District High School	<6
Total	469

Final Data Report 2024-25

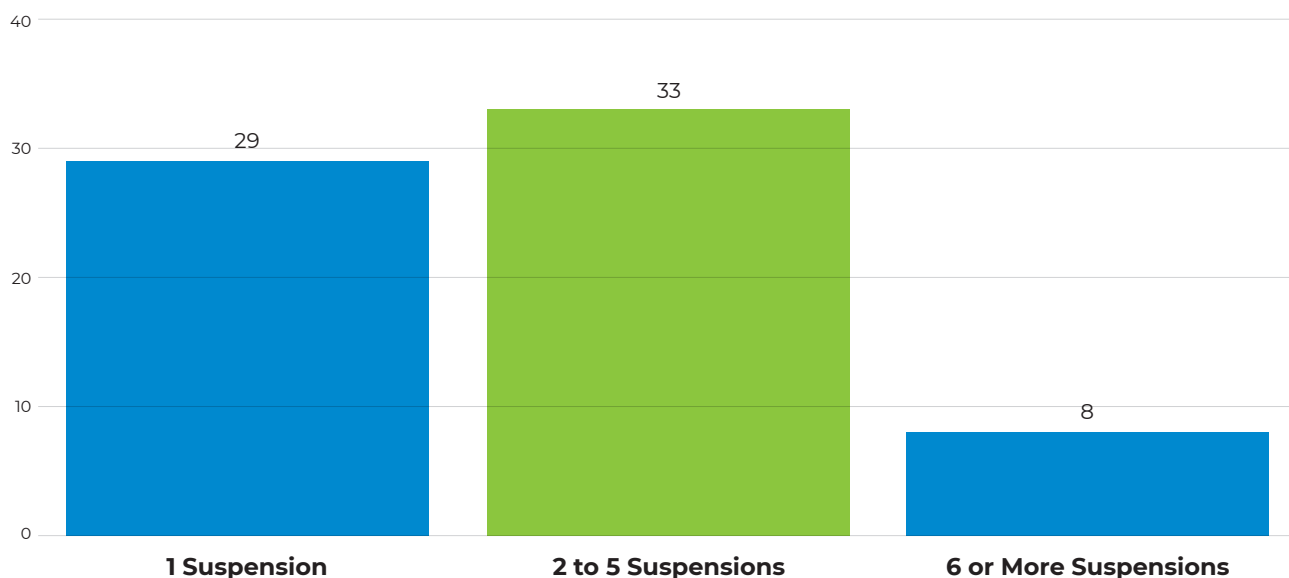
Aggregated Attendance Records

Average number of Absences in 2024-25



Aggregated Suspension Totals

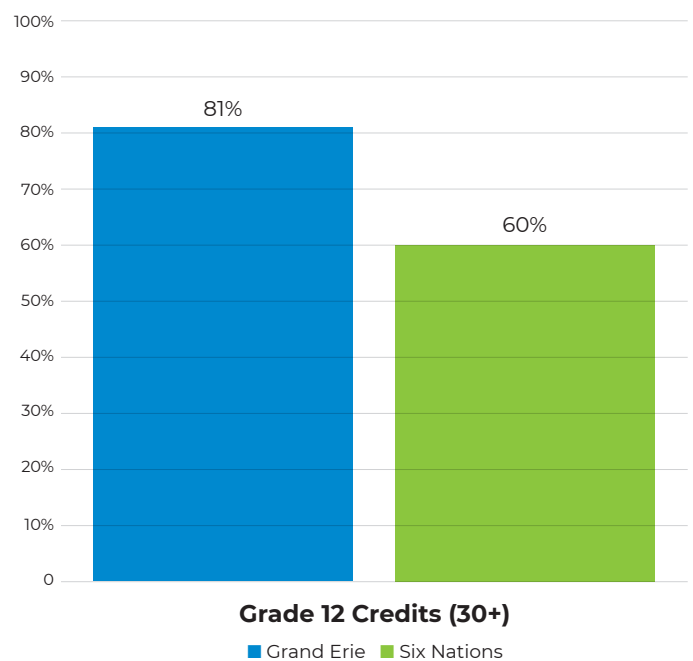
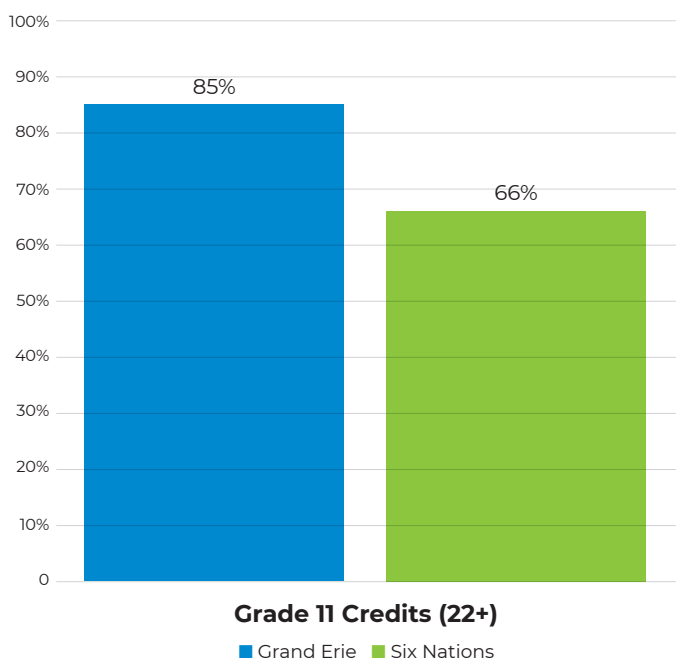
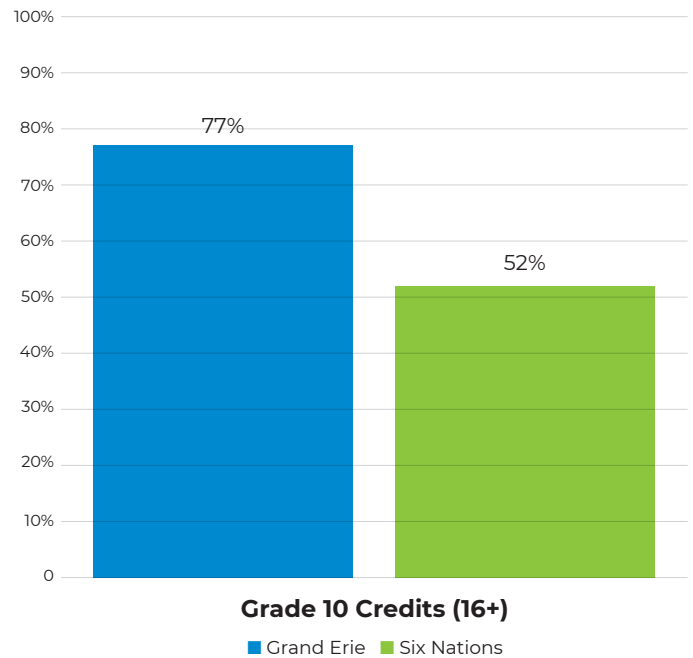
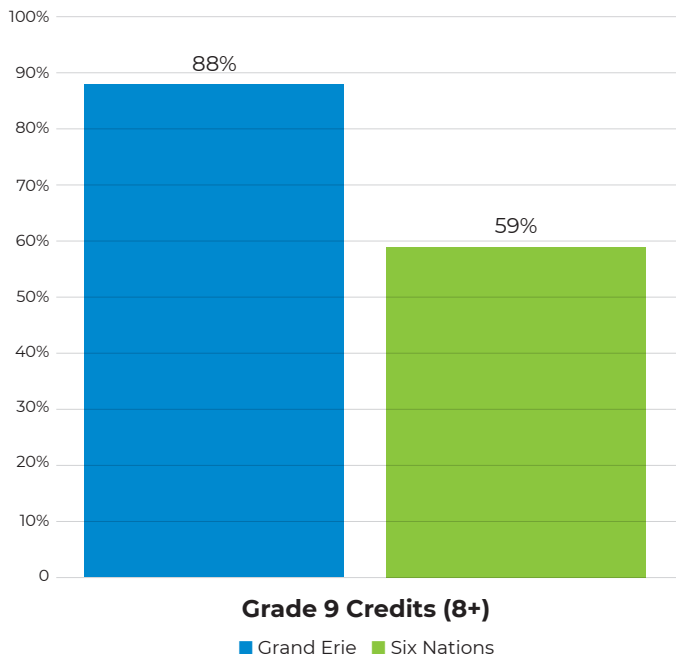
Number of Suspensions in 2024-25



Final Data Report 2024-25

Credit Accumulation by Grade

Credit Accumulation at the Year-End in 2024-25

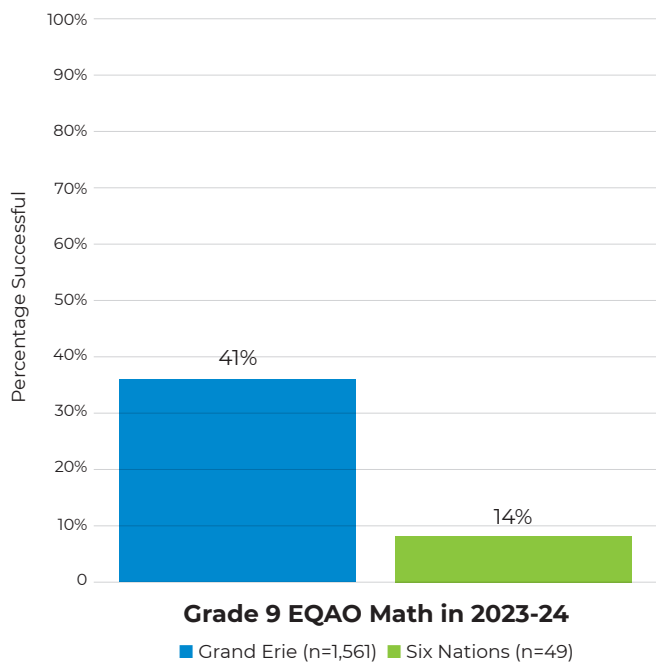


Note: This data represents the proportion of students on track to graduate among students taking a full course load (at least 6 courses).

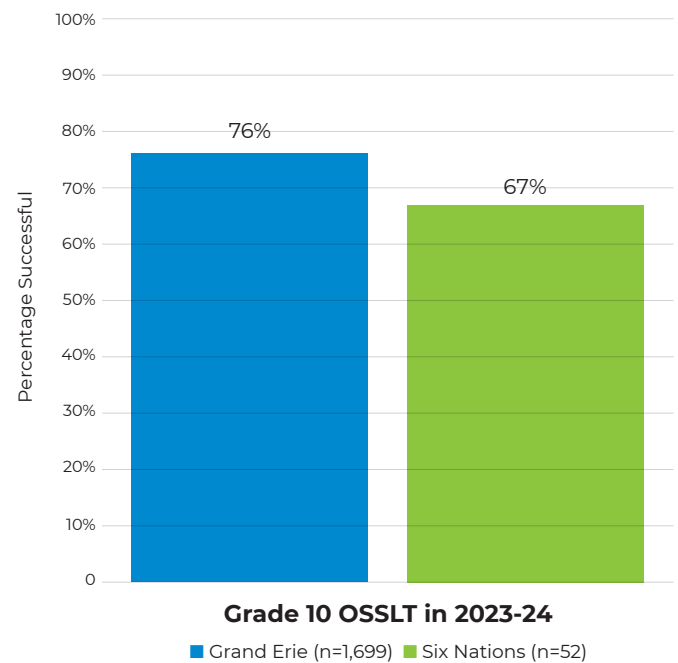
Final Data Report 2024-25

Aggregated EQAO Scores for Grades 9 and 10

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics



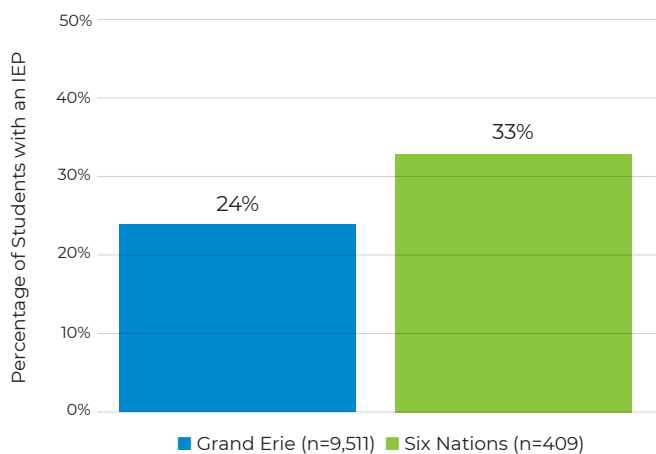
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)



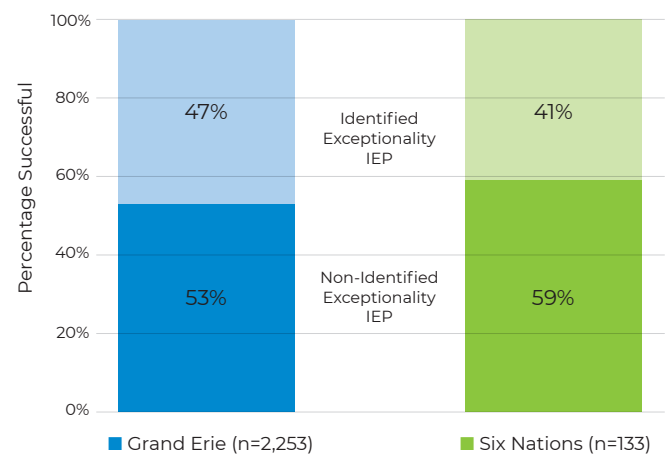
Note: These data represent students that are first-time eligible and fully participating

Aggregated IEP Data

Percentage of students with an IEP in 2024-25



Percentage of IEPs with and without an Exceptionality in 2024-25



Notes: These data represent students with an IEP among those actively enrolled in the board for the full 2024-25 year.

► **Special Services Provided Under the ESA**

Six Nations Advisor

Grand Erie employs a Six Nations Advisor of Haudenosaunee ancestry to provide consulting and advisory services to Grand Erie with respect to issues affecting Six Nations students, and to:

- Participate in the development, review, and implementation of curricula, programs, and services affecting Six Nations students
 - Advise Grand Erie and personnel on the significance and inclusion of Haudenosaunee values and traditions throughout initiatives of Grand Erie
 - Participate, by invitation, on committees which deliberate on any issues affecting Six Nations students
 - Coordinate and administer the activities of the Native Advisory Committee
 - Assist in monitoring services outlined in the Special Services Agreement of the Education Services Agreement
 - Facilitate all other aspects of the implementation of the Education Services Agreement
-

Six Nations Education Counsellors

Grand Erie employs three (3) Six Nations Education Counsellors of Haudenosaunee ancestry to provide supplementary counselling and liaison services to Six Nations students enrolled at McKinnon Park Secondary School, Hagersville Secondary School, Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, and to:

- Participate in all Individual Placement and Review Committee meetings conducted for Six Nations students
 - Be a resource to and assist with initiatives of the Six Nations Advisory Committee
 - Establish positive relations with school personnel and parents of Six Nations students attending Grand Erie secondary schools for the purpose of enhancing student success rates
-

Community Liaison Worker

Grand Erie employs a Community Liaison Worker of Haudenosaunee ancestry to provide supplementary community liaison services to Six Nations students enrolled at McKinnon Park Secondary School, Hagersville Secondary School, Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, and to:

- Establish positive relations with parents and agencies of the Six Nations community as they relate to Six Nations students' education
- Advocate on behalf of Six Nations students and the community
- Establish and maintain up to date information regarding Six Nations students' entrance, retention and success rates in secondary education
- Provide counselling to Six Nations students who have been referred by the secondary schools for issues regarding additional opportunities for growth

› Special Services Provided Under the ESA

High Cost Special Education

Grand Erie provides High Cost Special Education services and equipment to meet the identified high cost special education needs of Six Nations students within the existing processes of Grand Erie. Additional staff supports are provided to ensure the health and safety of students who have extraordinarily high needs related to their special education needs. In 2024-25, Grand Erie employed nine (9) Educational Assistants to provide additional support to Six Nations students with high cost special education needs allocated as follows:

Name of School	# EAs
Cayuga Secondary School	2
Hagersville Secondary School	2
McKinnon Park Secondary School	1
Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School	1
Tollgate Technological Skills Centre	2
Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School	1

Summer Programs

Grand Erie's Summer School Program is open to all Six Nations students as they finish their grade 7 year or if they are already in high school. Students can register in the summer school program to get ahead in their credit count through reach ahead courses or to recover a credit they previously missed in their regular school year.

› Other ESA Undertakings

Partnership with Six Nations Federal Schools

Grand Erie works with Six Nations' school principals and staff for an ongoing and strengthened partnership focused on respect and reciprocity leading to:

- Smoother transitions of Six Nations students from Grade 8 to secondary school and improved student attendance and achievement
- Inclusion of Six Nations federal school staff in Grand Erie professional development for teachers
- Increased involvement of Six Nations parents/caregivers in the education of their children

Native Languages

To encourage and support the ongoing commitment to the restoration of Indigenous languages as documented in the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report 2015, Grand Erie has implemented Native Language courses in the Haudenosaunee languages Mohawk and Cayuga in its schools utilizing the same criteria contained in the current Ministry of Education Native Languages curriculum guidelines. These courses are available to all students of Grand Erie where numbers warrant delivery.

Grand Erie employs two (2) teachers of Haudenosaunee ancestry for the delivery of these Native Language courses. This year, Grand Erie continued on a new language initiative where Grand Erie was able to offer Mohawk and Cayuga languages courses through an online platform. We were able to offer these courses to any Grand Erie students in grades 7 and up. Students in the Nations and New Start programs were also supported with in person teacher support to assist with their online language course.

Other ESA Undertakings

Enrolment in Native Language and Native Studies Courses in the 2024-25 School Year

Course Code and Title	Enrolment
LNAAO - Native Languages - Cayuga	70
LNABO - Native Languages - Cayuga	6
LNMAO - Native Languages - Mohawk	49
LNMBO - Native Languages - Mohawk	2
NAC1O - Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures	96
NAC2O - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada	91
NBE3C - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	843
NBE3E - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	293
NBE3U - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	915
NBV3E - World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities in Canada	22
Total	2,387

Transitioning to Secondary Schools

Six Nations students may choose from the following Grand Erie secondary schools for which bussing is provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

- McKinnon Park Secondary School
- Hagersville Secondary School
- Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School
- Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School
- Cayuga Secondary School



Transition Activities

Transitioning from elementary to secondary school is a time of uncertainty and opportunity. Our goal is to support and prepare students by providing programs and experiences within a caring and inclusive learning environment.

The Grand Erie Transitions team and Six Nations Advisor work collaboratively with Six Nations federal school administrators and staff to create a transition plan to secondary school for Six Nations students. The goal of the transition plan is to provide students and parents/caregivers fulsome information to enable them to make the best secondary school choice for the student's individual interests, goals and needs.

In Grand Erie, services are provided on a continuum based on the strengths and needs of the student that includes:

- General education classroom with Universal Design for Learning, Culturally Relevant, Responsive and Sustainable Pedagogy, instruction and assessment and accommodations
- Self-contained special education classroom, partially integrated or fully contained (Note: self-contained classrooms may not be available in all secondary schools)
- Wrap-around supports and services.

Intermediate and Learning Resource Teachers

Activity	Date	Details
Transitions In-Service with Intermediate and Learning Resource Teachers	October 2024	Transitions 'in-service' provided to Six Nations Grade 7 and 8 teachers and Learning Resource Teachers to review the transition plan and all necessary information to support transitions to Grand Erie secondary schools.

Grade 7

Activity	Date	Details
Secondary School 'Exploration' Activities	November 2024	Grand Erie staff shared the "Secondary School Exploration" Activity series and provided delivery support to Grade 7 teachers as requested
Specialized Services Support Meeting	February 2025	Grand Erie Coordinator met with transition leads from Six Nations to discuss grade 7 students who may require specialized supports and services in grade 9 (including self-contained placement) to assist in transition planning
The Right Fit & Passport Event	March 2025	Grand Erie staff facilitated the Right Fit presentation to Grade 7 classes and five secondary schools facilitated information activities to fill student 'passports'.
Grade 7 High School Tours	April 2025	Grade 7s visited each of the five secondary schools

Transition Activities

Grade 8

Activity	Date	Details
Specialized Services Check-In	October 2024	Grand Erie Coordinator met with Six Nations transition leads to review program goals and pathways for students who may need specialized supports and services (including self-contained placement) to help determine program options for grade 9
Grade 8 Day @ chosen secondary school	October/ November 2024	Grade 8s visited the secondary school of their choice for Secondary School Information presentations, school tours and to meet staff
Grand Erie Technology Exploration Day	November 2024	This event was run by the Curriculum and Student Achievement Team (Secondary Team). Grade 8 students explored the technology that Grand Erie has to offer
Grade 8-11 Pathway Opportunities Presentations	November/ December 2024	Invitation to Six Nations schools to the Pathways Speakers Series (Student Success). Virtual presentations set up by the Curriculum and Student Achievement Team
Grade 8 course selection (ONLINE)	January 2025	Student success (Central team) completed course selection with each grade 8 class using myBlueprint and handed out Grand Erie Secondary School Registration forms
Registration Package pick-up	Early February 2025	For those students who did not complete online course selection parents/caregivers were able to visit a location and pick up a registration package. The package included the secondary school registration form and each course selection form from the five schools
Registration Support Days	Mid-February 2025	Grand Erie Staff provided on-site support for parents/caregivers to drop in for assistance with completing registration forms
Self-contained Placements	By End of February 2025	Specialized Services confirmed self-contained placement options
Registration packages due	By End of February 2025	Completed registration packages were submitted directly to Six Nations Transitions Leads (For those students who did not complete online course selection)
Grade 8 course selection (ONLINE)	January 2026	Student success (Central team) completed course selection with each grade 8 class using myBlueprint and handed out Grand Erie Secondary School Registration forms

Transition Activities

Grade 8 Cntd.

Activity	Date	Details
Grade 8 Transition meetings with teachers	May 2025	Grand Erie staff and each Grade 8 teacher met to complete Grand Erie Student Profile template for each of the students to ensure programming and supports were in place for student in September
Grade 8 Parent meetings	May 2025 (as requested by parents/caregivers)	Grand Erie school staff met with individual Grade 8 student and parent/caregiver to address questions and concerns regarding their child's transition to secondary school
Grade 8 Partnership Day (morning) EPIC Jobs (afternoon)	May 2025 Organized by Curriculum and Student Achievement Team/Indigenous Education Team	Six Nation's Grade 8s were invited to participate in the event. Plan was to pair up Six Nations Grade 8s with their secondary school peer classes. In the afternoon students were brought to the EPIC jobs event in Brantford to explore the Skilled Trades and Pathway opportunities
Grade 8 IPRC meetings for those going into secondary school self contained program	April/May 2025	The student's secondary school LRT and/or designate was invited to attend the IPRC meetings for those Grade 8 students whose placements were confirmed at their school. It was recommended the school's Native Education Counselor or the Native Advisor attend
Grade 8 Day	June 2025	Grand Erie schools planned activities for grade 8s visiting their schools
Specialized Services-Additional School based transition visits/activities/supports	May/June 2025	Transition visits/activities/supports were organized by school-based staff based on individual student needs

Grade 9

Activity	Date	Details
Pre-registration day	Week before school starts 2025	Hosted by various schools.
Grade 9 BBQ	Late August/Early September 2025	Hosted by various schools.

Community Based Education Programs

Grand Erie has developed a variety of innovative community-based education programs to meet the needs of Six Nations students. These programs offered at Grand Erie's Community Based Learning Centre located on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory provide for more opportunities in experiential and culturally relevant learning. Grand Erie continues to seek innovative strategies and program delivery models to meet the needs of all learners, including those who may require re-engagement programs and alternative ways to earn secondary school credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

NATIONS and Newstart

The NATIONS and Newstart programs provide alternative learning in a community setting for secondary students from Six Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and surrounding areas. It serves secondary students who prefer a smaller and more flexible learning environment.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Grand Erie secondary students in Grades 9-12+, up to age 21 years old.
- **Supported Pathways:** All grades and pathways.
- **Program Details:** Co-op program

Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP)

Under the provisions of Section 23 of the Ministry of Education's General Legislative Grant Regulation (Reg. 287/98) educational programs may be provided by District School Boards in collaboration with community partners, for school-aged young people, who for various reasons are unable to attend regular schools. Grand Erie offers two Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) specific to Indigenous students.

Ratiweientehta's – They Are Learning

Grand Erie has partnered with Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services to offer an ECPP classroom out of the Youth Lodge facility. Ganohkwasra provides therapeutic counselling and services while a Grand Erie Teacher provides individualized academic programming.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Students aged 13-21
- **Supported Pathways:** All grades and pathways
- **Program Details:** Students must complete an intake process with Ganohkwasra intake worker. They must have exhausted resources at their home school

Ohahi:yo Program

In partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services – Youth Justice Services Division, Grand Erie employs one (1) itinerant teacher to provide services and supports to First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth who are engaged in some capacity with the youth justice system. Through a holistic approach, students are provided individualized program planning and support toward their full re-engagement into schooling and community.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** FNMI self-identified youth 14-21 years old engaged in Youth Justice System
- **Supported Pathway:** All grades and pathways
- **Program Details:** Students must be referred by youth justice connection, such as a Probation Officer

› Celebrating Indigenous Student Success



Lacrosse Expands Across Grand Erie

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in Grand Erie, with teams in competition at Hagersville Secondary School, Waterford District High School, Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Paris District High School and McKinnon Park Secondary School during the 2024-25 school year. The McKinnon Park Blue Devils went on to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) and placed first in the A/AA Boys' Lacrosse division.



United Indigenous Student Council (UISC)

Students from Six Nations participated as part of UISC where they were representatives selected to share student voice on behalf of their school.

Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative



Grand Erie Welcomes Aidyn Hill as Indigenous Student Trustee for 2024-25 School Year

Hill, a Grade 12 student in the New Start program through Hagersville Secondary School, was elected through a process of consensus which involved the members of the United Indigenous Student Council collaborating and discussing the task before them, and ultimately arriving at a decision they felt would best serve the interests and needs of the whole group. This is the first year the consensus model was used in person for the Indigenous student trustee election. The method of decision-making is rooted in traditional principles and governance structures, shaped by the values and experiences of the group's members to reach collective agreement.

"When you choose to go the extra mile, it further elevates your voice, shows others you're passionate about what you do, and brings more perspectives to the board, which is your key role as student trustee."



Grand Erie District School Board

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