

Indigenous Student Support Ontario Schools

This information was produced to help distinguish between the different education supports in elementary and secondary schools.

Indigenous Education Leads

Every school board must have a full-time position dedicated to supporting Indigenous education in school boards. Leads work closely with senior board administration, including the superintendent responsible for Indigenous education, school board staff and Indigenous Education Councils. The leads support:

- improved Indigenous student achievement and well-being; and,
- enhanced knowledge and awareness about First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, histories and perspectives for all students.

Indigenous Education Councils (IECs)

The IECs guide school boards and schools in building stronger relationships with communities, sharing information, identifying promising practices and enhancing collaborative work to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit student achievement and well-being. All school boards must have formal structures such as IECs to support Indigenous education in school boards.

Contact your school board to learn about your local Indigenous Education Council.

Indigenous Graduation Coach Program

- Some school boards have Indigenous graduation coaches to help Indigenous students obtain an Ontario Secondary

School Diploma and successfully transition into postsecondary education, training or labour market opportunities.

- This program is a flexible, culturally sound program that allows boards to build a supportive process for Indigenous students to succeed in school.

Contact your school to see if an Indigenous graduation coach is available through your school board.

Alternative Secondary School Program within Indigenous Friendship Centres

In partnership with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, local Friendship Centres and school boards, the Alternative Secondary School Program offers culturally-relevant education programming and learning supports for Indigenous students working toward graduation. The program focuses on:

- Indigenous approaches and ways of knowing
- land-based learning
- connection to community
- access to Indigenous knowledge keepers and elders

The program follows a trauma-informed education model that puts well-being and holistic approaches to education at the centre of learning.

Contact your school board or local Indigenous Friendship Centre to see if the program is available in your area.

Source: [Indigenous education in Ontario | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca)