



Dibaaymowin

MARCH

A Message from the Interim Director of Education Team

Aanii!

March is a busy month at the Kinooaadziwin Education Body (KEB) and throughout the Anishinabek Education System (AES). We recognize the many efforts of the Participating First Nations (PFNs) that are conducting year-end processes and planning for the new fiscal year up ahead. The interim Director of Education team is working collaboratively to maintain the operations and administration of the KEB, while the position of the Director of Education remains vacant. We are committed to supporting the incredible staff of the KEB and the education representatives of the PFNs who work diligently to provide quality education services to Anishinabek youth.

Over the next several weeks, there will be many opportunities for us to gather, both in-person and virtually, at special events like the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum. At each of these events, we look forward to providing updates about ongoing work and hearing from you on important issues and priorities.

Miigwech!

Alicia Cameron, Nancy O'Donnell, Claire Scanlan & Andrea Crawford



Last 2 months in Review

Acronym Guide

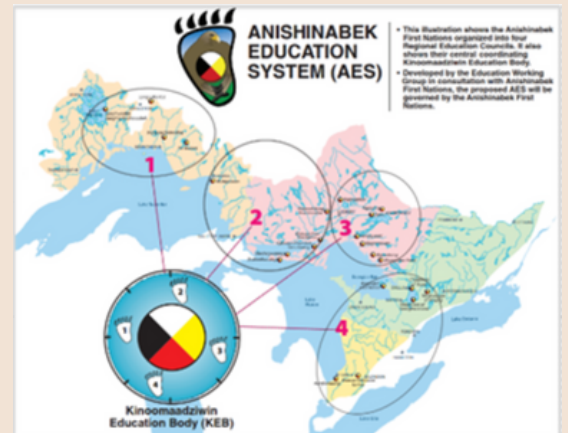
AES - Anishinabek Education System
KEB - Kinooaadziwin Education Body
DSB - District School Board
REC - Regional Education Council
PFN - Participating First Nation



Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) Project Updates

→ Education System-Wide Standards

The KEB has completed the first round of engagement sessions with the PFNs in creating the AES System-Wide Standards. Input from the communities will be used to further refine the statements. The biggest take-away from the PFN input is that this work is integral to building the system. It is also important that the standards statements are reflective of each community's vision for the AES. The next steps will include an internal collaboration to revise the System-Wide Standards statements based on the input of the PFNs. Once this revision is complete, the KEB will hold additional System-Wide Standards engagement sessions to share the revised statements. We look forward to developing a final version that is reflective of the collaborative approach to this work.



LOOKING FORWARD: Engagement sessions to begin again in April to review the updated version of the AES System-Wide Standards statements.

→ Language & Culture

The KEB hosted the two first Kweji-kinooaaagzidaa! "Let's Learn" virtual events! In February, Peter Beaucage from Nipissing First Nation taught participants about the bear moon. In March, Cindy Fisher from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg focused on teaching about Anishinaabe ways of knowing and understanding balance.

The next Kweji-kinooaaagzidaa event will be on April 8 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM with Neil Monague from Beausoleil First Nation. To learn more about this event, please [click here](#).

These sessions are intended to provide an opportunity for students, staff, educators, and community members to learn from Elders in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Anyone who wants to learn is welcome to attend.



→ Professional and Leadership Development

“Addressing Racism in Education Systems” is the topic of conversation for three Professional Development sessions with the AES this month. Participants were provided with an online module including three main areas of content, including:

- Understanding the History of Racism;
- Indigenous Experiences with Racism in Schools; and
- Support to Address Anti-Indigenous Racism in Schools.

We are thankful to the participants who attended the virtual sessions and shared their stories, experiences, and strengths in addressing racism within education systems. These sessions were developed based on the input we received from the PFNs at REC Fall Meetings and at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum. The PFNs requested professional development to build our own understanding of what systemic racism looks like, and how we can work together to address these issues when they arise.



→ Professional and Leadership Development

- Almost all AES schools have been assigned their Board School Identifications (BSIDs). This will allow schools to assign Ontario Education Numbers (OENs) to AES students.
- Two group training sessions were offered to PFN school administrators in early March to learn how to assign the OENs to their students. One more training session will be offered in late March for any remaining PFNs to learn about the process.
- Once all AES students (both on and off-reserve) have OENs, the KEB will be able to continue the important work of collecting data that supports the AES in various ways (see chart below for how data supports student success and well-being).

ACTION	OUTCOME
Student records will be accessible through the KEB and Ontario.	We will be able to follow AES students into Ontario's system, and provide them with assistance and supports.
Fluid transition of records for students moving between AES and Ontario systems.	This will ease school administration and reduce errors. It will make transitions easier for programming.
Supports the continued development and delivery of quality education programs and services in AES schools.	When we know more about AES students, we can do more to support them.
Communities and schools can capture accurate educational statistics for on and off-reserve students.	This will improve knowledge and understanding of on and off-reserve students. Helps to identify learning trends and needs of AES students.
Enables educators to customize professional development and learning.	Helps teachers to deliver responsive programs that meet Anishinabek standards.
Data will reflect on and off-reserve students.	We will have accurate information to support AES students.

For assistance with completing and submitting your consent form, please contact the KEB's Data Management Officer, Tracy Hanzlik at tracy.hanzlik@a-e-s.ca.

→ Strategic Initiatives

→ Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

This Summer, there is opportunity for each region of the AES to run a Reach Ahead credit in partnership with District School Board (DSB) secondary schools or PFN secondary schools. This is a pathway for Grade 8 students to earn a secondary school credit prior to entering their Grade 9 year. The focus of this year's Reach Ahead program will be land-based learning opportunities for students.

This Spring there will be a callout to PFNs for interest in implementing the Anishinabek Student Support Worker (ASSW) pilot program for September 2022. This pilot has been developed to support Anishinabek youth with student success and well-being as they pursue their education goals.

LOOKING FORWARD: PFNs will be contacted by the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for further information on these two Strategic Initiatives.

 **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

Don't forget to complete the interim reports with signed attestation forms by March 31st, 2022. Please send to Tammy Desmoulin, Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Coordinator, at tammy.desmoulin@a-e-s.ca.

- The Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund has a great line up of presentations taking place at the upcoming Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum. The session will be dedicated to Learning Circles. Eight First Nations will present on their respective projects.
- If your First Nation has any upcoming Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund events (such as workshops, youth events, school programming, etc.), please reach out to Tammy Desmoulin, Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Coordinator, at tammy.desmoulin@a-e-s.ca. Tammy would love to attend and document the event!



Regional Education Council Highlights

The REC Coordinators and PFNs have been busy with multiple exciting projects!

Region 1

- REC 1 will gather for Module 2 of the Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN) program, with host community Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. Indigenous educator, Sandi Boucher, will facilitate the training with participants from the Superior-Greenstone District School Board.
- Implementation of the Student Transitions Protocol continues throughout the region. In January and March, two meetings were held with PFNs and DSBs.
- The KEB hosted Anishinabek storyteller, Isaac Murdoch, for virtual in-class presentations with students and staff from Long Lake #58, Migizi Wazisin Elementary School.
- The Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee hosted their second annual Virtual Language conference on March 4, 2022. Brent Mooselegs Edwards facilitated the conference, which welcomed more than 100 participants. Throughout the day, people gathered online to learn from speakers such as Barbara Nolan, the Anishinabek Nation Language Commissioner, and Peter Shebagabow.



Region 2

- For the month of March, the REC 2 Coordinator has been meeting with PFNs one-on-one. The one-on-one sessions are enabling the regional coordinator to gain a better understanding of the individual needs and priorities of each community within the region.
- REC #2 is working on re-establishing regional priorities in order to identify and implement regional projects moving forward.
- The Spring meeting for the region will be held on May 11, 2022. The morning will be dedicated to discussions with the PFNs from the region. In the afternoon, the PFNs will welcome the local DSBs to the session for continued discussions.

Region 3

- REC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. General business items include: updates about Multi-Year Action Plan projects that impact REC 3, regional projects, REC #3 workplan review and update, and regional planning.
- The Spring Meeting for REC #3 will be held May 17, 2022. The morning will involve discussions with REC #3 members while the afternoon will be a joint session with the DSBs. Planning of the agenda is underway.
- Engagement sessions to support the implementation of the Student Transition Protocol will be taking place in March and April 2022.
- In March, planning will begin for sessions to support the development of a Regional Engagement Protocol. The Regional Engagement Protocol is a project under the Multi Year Action Plan and will be done in collaboration with partner District School Boards.
- EKAN training will take place with REC #3 PFNs and the Near North District School Board in April 2022.



Region 4

Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School (MKES) amped up the fun factor in math by running a family game night with “Math Olympics” in February. With just a set of dice and a deck of cards, kids and their families learned new games that build math skills. The games were put together by Matt Everitt, a Math Support Teacher. Families responded with enthusiasm and kids talked about it in class. To create strong links between home and school, daily problems were provided for all grades.

Kudos to MKES for offering a creative opportunity to make math fun for families!



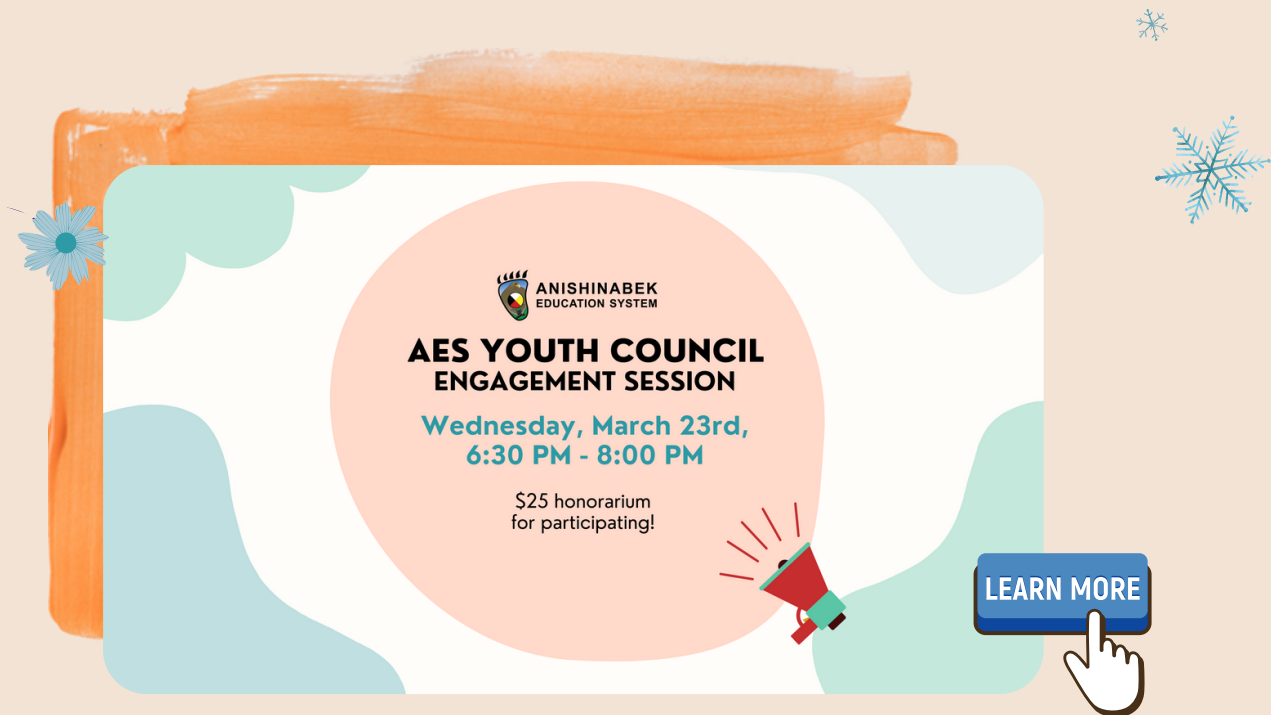
AES Youth Council

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body is looking for motivated students to help build the Anishinabek Education System Youth Council!

Youth were invited to the first virtual AES Youth Council Engagement session to generate interest and share ideas on how to develop an AES youth council. Some of the agenda items included a short presentation on “What is the AES?” followed by open-ended questions to hear the voice of youth. Youth shared their thoughts on what they consider to be important initiatives related to education. Jessica and Joshua created a welcoming environment with games, prizes, and plenty of time to have virtual conversations.

The KEB continues to seek AES youth who are currently attending school and are passionate about Anishinabek education. The next Youth Council engagement session will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Youth will be discussing the topic of “How would you like to inspire hope in your community?”

The Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum will be another opportunity to hear from AES youth in April.



The graphic features a central pink circle containing the Anishinabek Education System logo and the text: **AES YOUTH COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT SESSION**, **Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**, and **\$25 honorarium for participating!**. The background is decorated with orange and teal brushstrokes, a blue flower, and snowflakes. A red megaphone icon is positioned to the right of the circle, and a blue button with the text **LEARN MORE** and a hand cursor icon is at the bottom right.

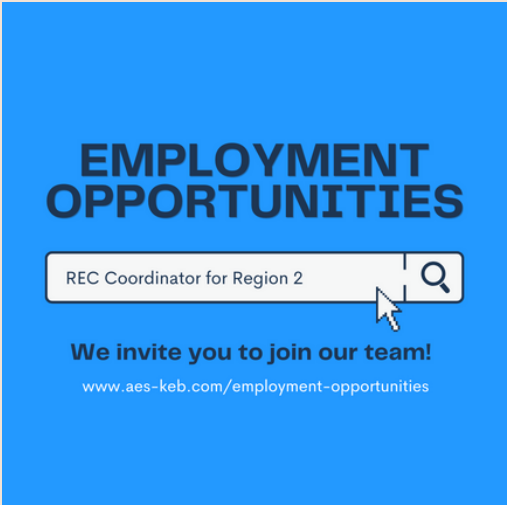
Employment Opportunities

REC Coordinator for Region 2

The Regional Education Council (REC) Coordinator plays a key role in supporting the Participating First Nations of the AES. As a liaison between the PFNs and the KEB, the REC Coordinator enables regional education outcomes for students of the AES and support regional collaboration on projects and resource development.

Applications for the position will be accepted until 12:00 pm on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

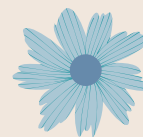
Click [here](https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/) to view the official job posting or visit <https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/>



The graphic has a solid blue background. At the top, the text **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** is displayed in white. Below it is a white search bar containing the text 'REC Coordinator for Region 2' and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom, the text **We invite you to join our team!** is shown in white, followed by the URL [www.aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities](https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities) in a smaller white font.



New Employees Update



Special Education Coordinator Colleen Sheriff

The KEB welcomed Colleen Sheriff on March 21, 2022, in the position of Special Education Coordinator. Colleen Sheriff will be assuming the role on a full-time basis until the end of August 2023. Colleen has an extensive background in education, including many years of service in a District School Board setting. Please connect with Colleen by email at colleen.sheriff@a-e-s.ca.



Negotiation Updates



The KEB negotiations team met with Canada on February 7 & 8 and on March 7 & 8, 2022, to continue negotiating the terms of the next Anishinabek Education System Financial Agreement. Discussions at the negotiation table factor in a wide-range of topics, such as reporting requirements, education programs and services, funding adjustors, information sharing, life-long learning, capital needs, and capacity development, among many others.

Members of the KEB negotiations team have been meeting with each PFN since Fall 2021 to ensure the needs and priorities of each community are considered within the overall negotiation plan. In February 2022, a questionnaire was sent to all PFN Education Directors/Managers/Coordinators to provide specific information about their education programs and services. Information such as projected student enrollment, the number of special education students, spending on special education, transportation, supplies and local education authorities/committees is requested in the questionnaire. PFNs are requested to contact the negotiators for help with the questionnaire. Several amendments are being proposed by the KEB to better support PFNs and the ongoing development of the AES as a whole.

Meetings with the PFNs will continue into the next fiscal year. The next negotiation meeting with Canada is scheduled to take place on April 4 & 5, 2022.

For more information about the negotiations, feel free to contact the negotiators. Tracey O'Donnell can be contacted at tracey.odonnell@a-e-s.ca. Helen Bobiwash can be contacted at helen@helenbobiwashcpa.ca.



PowerSchool



For teachers and administrators, getting trained in how to use PowerSchool is an important step in creating a successful school year cycle. PowerSchool users and potential users have access to a number of training options throughout the year:

1. Training calendar
2. Group training
3. One-on-one training
4. Self-paced online learning



Please contact Julian Cote at julian.cote@a-e-s.ca to discuss your PowerSchool training needs.





Admin Updates

FINANCE

The AES Funding Formula Working Group met on March 9, 2022. This was the second meeting of the Working Group, which first met with Strategy Corp consultants on December 13, 2021. The meeting on March 9 focused on sharing progress updates on the status of work and collecting input on draft thinking for the proposed funding distribution approach. Data collection to support model development is still ongoing with the project consultants. Strategy Corp anticipates that the model will be iterated based on the data received.

For any questions regarding finances, please contact Claire Scanlan, Finance Manager, at claire.scanlan@a-e-s.ca or at 705-471-4668.

COVID-19

The KEB team is happy to be back in the office. Staff members have been staying healthy and energized during these last few months of Winter by snowshoeing during their lunch break. We encourage everyone to get some vitamin D and incorporate some movement into their day!



Upcoming Events

- ➔ MARCH 23, 2022, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
AES Youth Council Engagement Session
- ➔ APRIL 8, 2022, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Kweji-kinoomaagzidaa! "Lets learn"
Anishinaabe Songs and Ways of Knowing with Neil Monague
- ➔ APRIL 20-21, 2022
Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum (7th annual)
Registration portal has been sent by Ingaged Creative Productions
- ➔ MAY 4, 2022
Regional Education Council 1 Spring Meeting
Agenda and event details are coming soon.
- ➔ MAY 11, 2022
Regional Education Council 2 Spring Meeting
Agenda and event details are coming soon.
- ➔ MAY 17, 2022
Regional Education Council 3 Spring Meeting
Agenda and event details are coming soon.
- ➔ MAY 25, 2022
Regional Education Council 4 Spring Meeting
Agenda and event details are coming soon.



To learn more about upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow the AES on Facebook ([@AnishinabekEducation](https://www.facebook.com/AnishinabekEducation)) or visit the website's event calendar: <https://aes-keb.com/calendar/>