Education Services Agreement

Annual Report

2025-26



Above: United Indigenous Student Council Year End Haudenosaunee Social and Anishinaabe Round Dance.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Students

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Learn Lead Inspire

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
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Students

ESA

Executive Summary

The Education Services Agreement for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students is an agreement between the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) and MCFN, that outlines the services, programs and supports that were provided to students from MCFN that attend Grand Erie schools.

This report highlights the work of the 2025-26 school year, specifically related to the progress of these students and the team whose work emerges from this Education Services Agreement.

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 2025-26 Board Action Plan for Indigenous students provided initiatives that directly impacted Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students including:

- Indigenous Student Leadership Initiative
- Transition to Secondary School activities for Grade 8 students at all schools
- Professional development activities for educators
- Culturally relevant and experiential learning opportunities for students.
- Indigenous Graduation Coach Program

Introduction

Throughout the 2025-26 school year Grand Erie worked to ensure supports have been put into place that align with the Strategic Plan of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging. To support this work, efforts have been made by the Indigenous Education Team and additional Graduation Coaches who are working directly with students, to monitor the progress of students from registration to graduation. Several new initiatives have also been put into place to support students across the district and within communities; these fall within four areas. Included are examples of what is being done within these areas:

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

1. In person and online Secondary Indigenous language courses in Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk language), Gayogohóno̱ʔ néha:ˀ (Cayuga language), Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language)
2. Secondary online language courses offered as Reach Ahead opportunities for students in Grade 8
3. Grade 9 Land-Based Learning course bundle at Hagersville Secondary
4. Grade 11 English Course (mandatory): Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices
5. Specialist High Skills Major at McKinnon Park with a focus on lacrosse

Authentic learning about 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, athletes and community leaders
5. Learning opportunities at Woodland Cultural Center and Mohawk Institute, Royal Chapel of the Mohawk, Haudenosaunee Sports Development and Haudenosaunee Lacrosse

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, Woodland Cultural Center, Mohawk Institute, Royal Chapel of the Mohawk for all staff, and several learning sessions for educators to support specific curriculum implementation



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 8
4. Indigenous Speakers and community events

A Message from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee



Aanii, Boozhoo!

Tammy Sault ndizhnikaas. Hagersville, Mississaugas of the Credit doonjibaa, shiikehn dodem, Mississauga Anishinaabe ndaaw.

I am humbled and honoured to represent the interests of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students at the board table. I am entering my fourth year of this term and have learned so much about how the board works towards Truth and Reconciliation, and supporting our MCFN students who attend Grand Erie schools. Our students have a sense of belonging in their schools because of these concerted efforts by the board to hear the students, see the students and embrace them in a warm learning environment.

I am honoured to hear about our MCFN students who have graduated and will be embarking on their learning journey outside of Grand Erie. To see their secondary education come to fruition is truly amazing for MCFN. Congratulations to our graduates and their families for all the hard work and dedication to reach this incredible milestone.

I will continue to work with Grand Erie to support our MCFN students as they continue to Lead, Learn and Inspire.

Miigwech miinwaa baamaapii kwaabmin.

Tammy Sault
Grand Erie 2025-26





Tammy Sault
Represents Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Students Under The ESA

Final Data Report

This report provides aggregated data from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students in Grades 9 through 12 attending Grand Erie. Data Includes:

- Enrolment numbers
- Aggregated attendance records (not available as there were under 10 students)
- Aggregated suspension totals
- Secondary school credit accumulation by grade (not reported because fewer than 10 students)
- Aggregated EQAO scores for grades 9 and 10
- Aggregated IEP data by exceptionality

Enrolment Numbers

2025-26

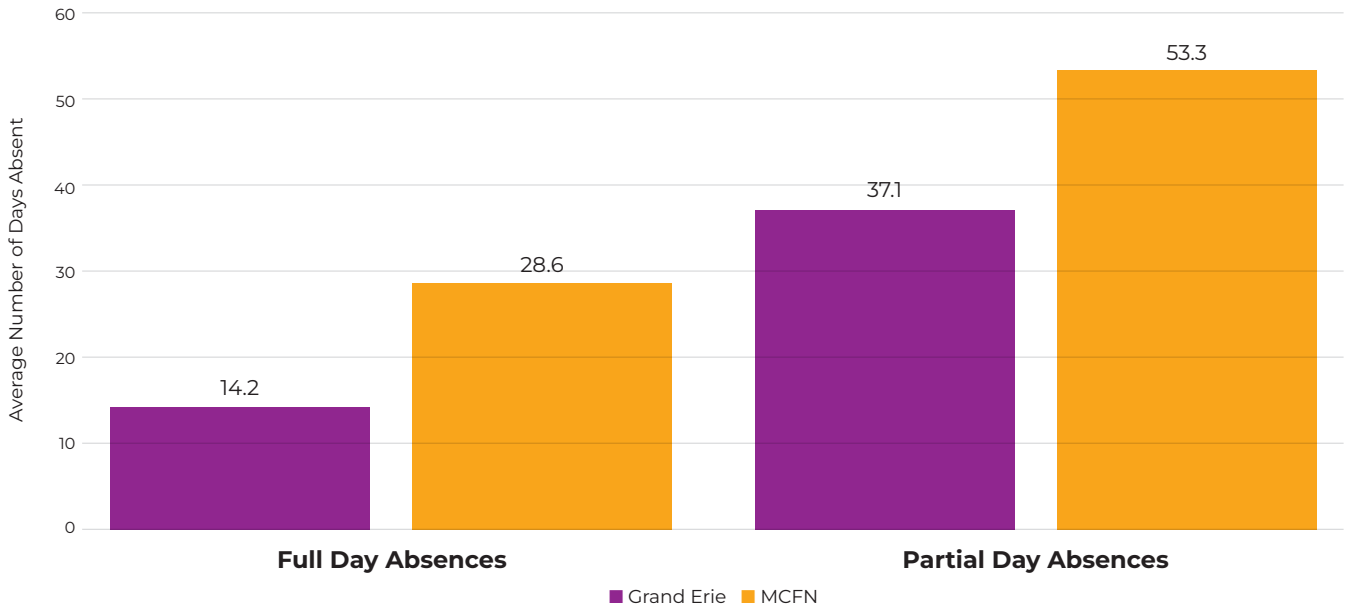
Grade	Number of Students
9	**19**
10	**9**
11	**13**
12	**24**
Total	**65**



Final Data Report

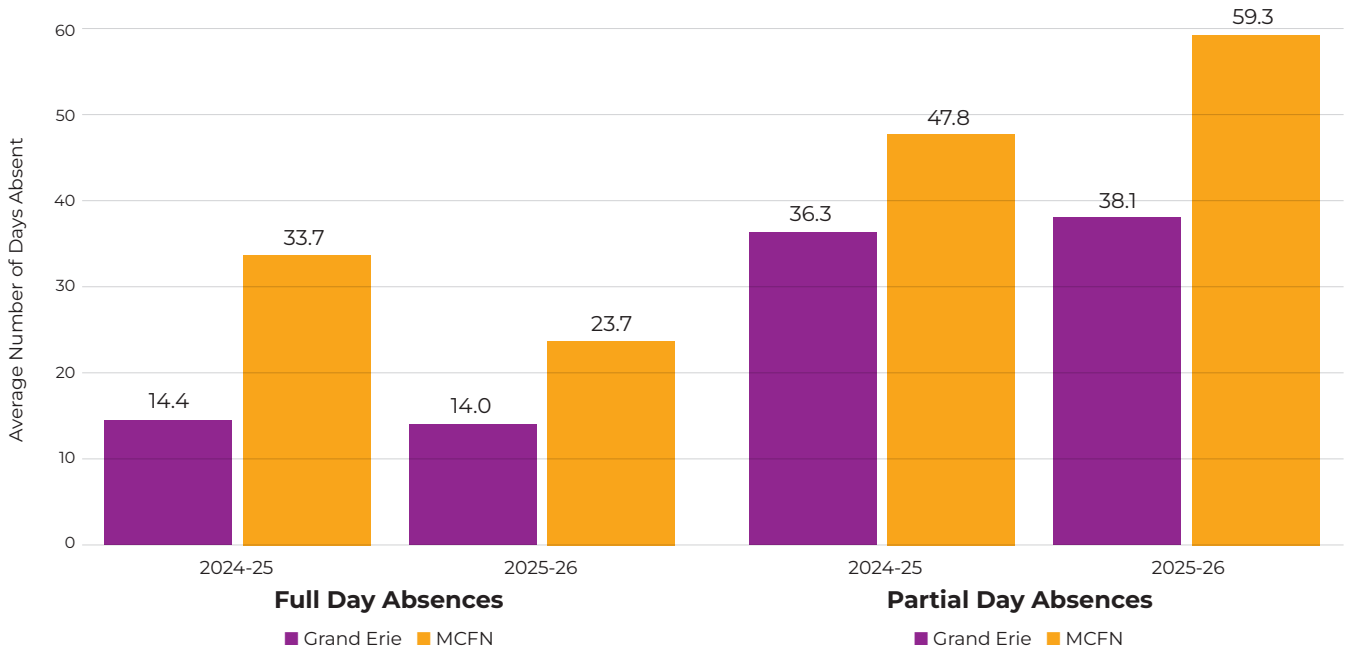
Aggregated Attendance Records

2-year Average Attendance (2024-25 and 2025-26)



Aggregated Attendance Records

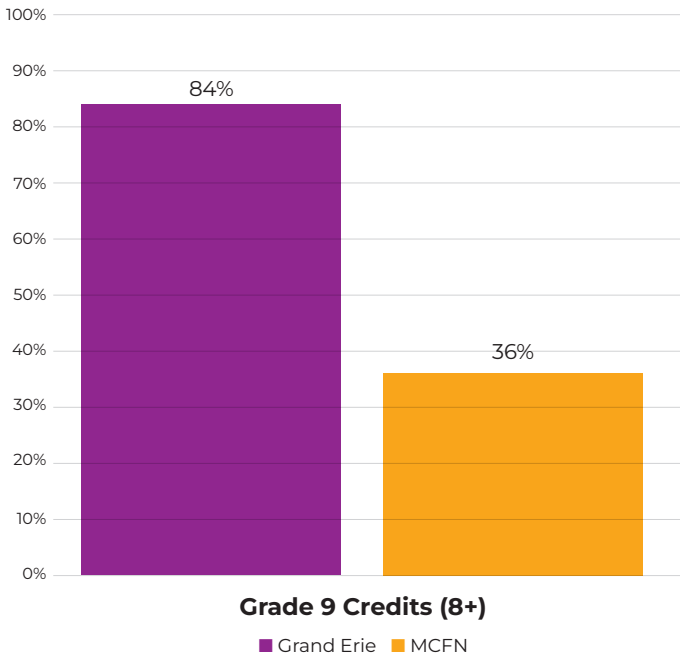
Average Attendance in 2024-25 and 2025-26

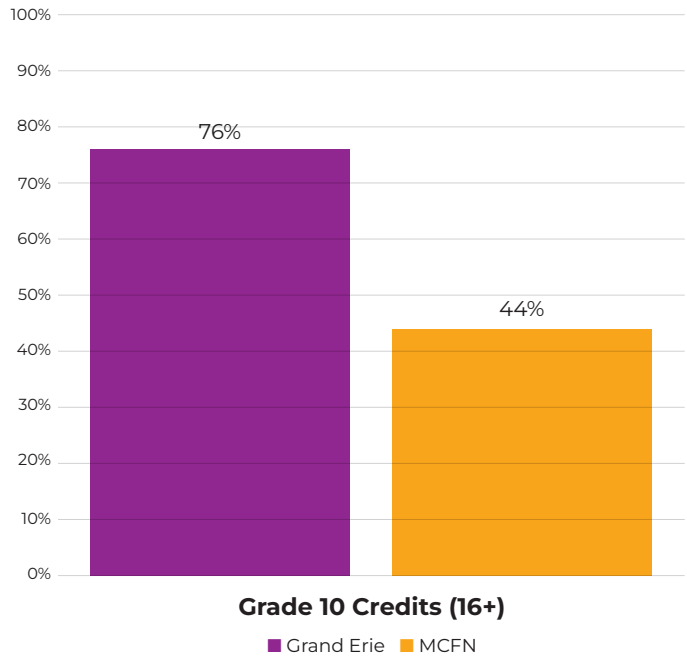


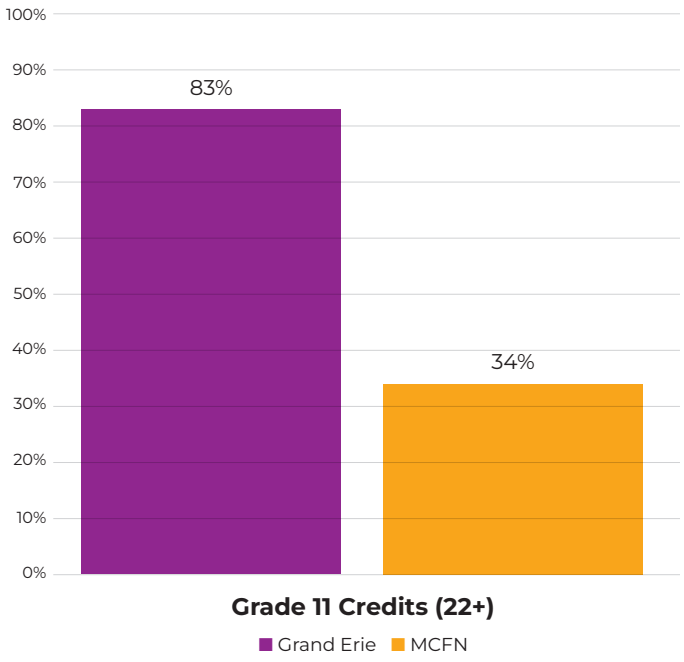
Final Data Report

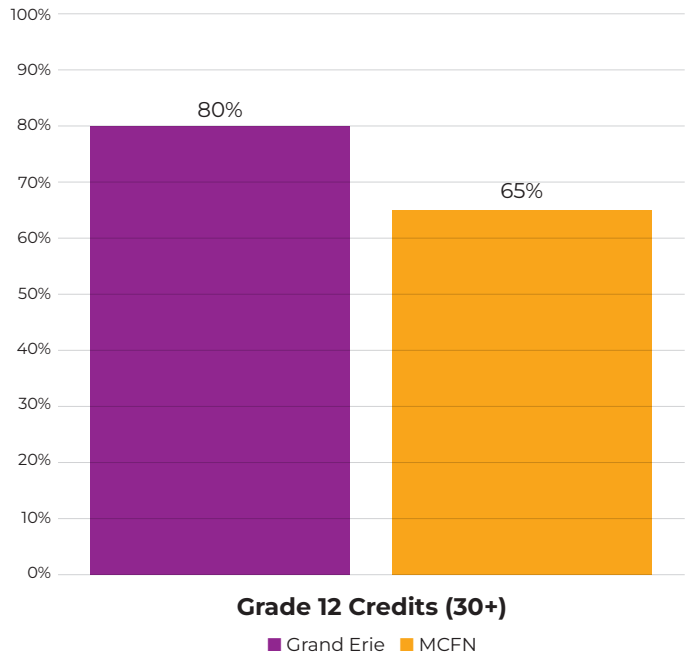
Credit Accumulation by Grade

Credit Accumulation 2-year average (2024-25 and 2025-26)







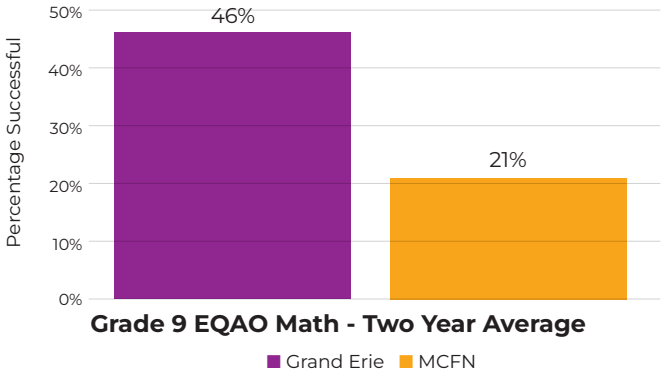


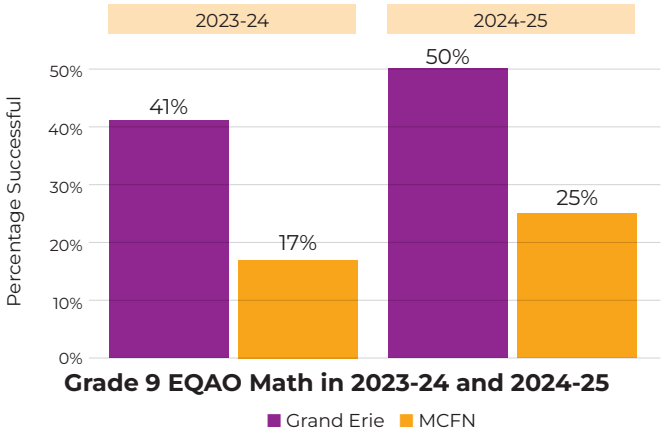
Note: This data represents the proportion of students on track to graduate among students taking a full course load (at least 6 courses).

Final Data Report

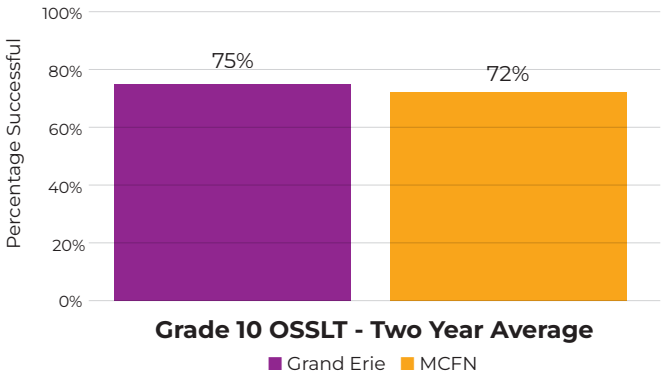
Aggregated EQAO Scores for Grades 9 and 10

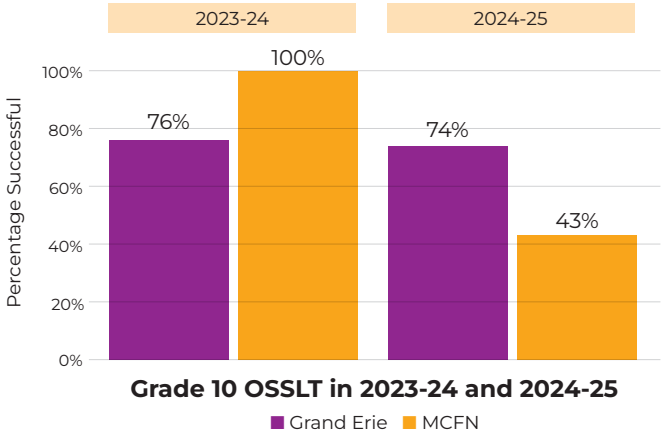
Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics





Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

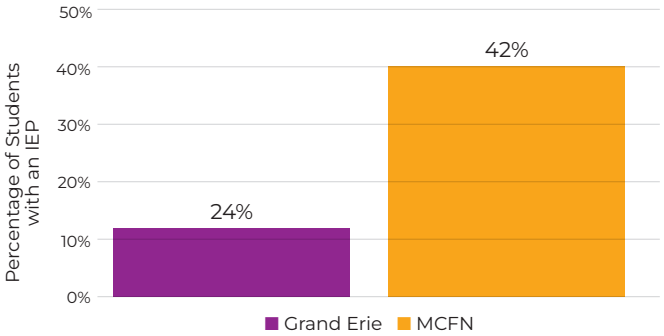




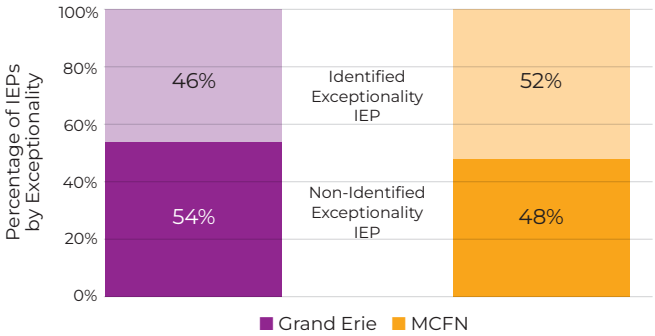
Note: This data represent students that are first-time eligible and fully participating

Aggregated IEP Data

Two Year Average Percentage of Students with an IEP (2024-25 and 2025-26)



Two-Year Average of the Percentage of IEPs with and without an Exceptionality



Notes: This data represent the proportion of students with an IEP among those actively enrolled in the board for the full year in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

ESA Undertakings

Partnership with MCFN

Grand Erie works with Lloyd S. King Elementary (LSK) administration and staff for an ongoing and strengthened partnership focused on respect and reciprocity leading to:

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

Summer Programs

The Grand Erie District School Board Summer School program is open to all Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students as they finish their Grade 7 year or if they are already in high school. Students could register in summer e-learning courses to get ahead in their credit count through reach ahead courses or to recover a credit they previously missed in their regular school year.

Indigenous 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 Ojibwe 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, both in-person and through e-learning, where numbers warrant delivery.

Enrolment in Native Language and Native Studies Courses in the 2025-26 School Year

Course Code and Title	Enrolment
LNOAO - Native Languages - Ojibwe	**21**
LNOBO - Native Languages - Ojibwe	**2**
NAC1O - Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures	**101**
NAC2O - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada	**97**
NBE3C - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	**777**
NBE3E - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	**318**
NBE3U - English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices	**840**
NBV3E - World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities in Canada	**6**
Total	**2,162**

Transitioning to Secondary Schools

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students may choose from the following Grand Erie secondary schools for which bussing is provided from the community.

- Hagersville Secondary School
- Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School



Transition Activities

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes that transitioning from elementary to secondary school is a time of uncertainty and opportunity. We aim to support and prepare students by providing programs and experiences within a caring and inclusive learning environment.

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

- 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)

Intermediate and Learning Resource Teachers

Activity	Date	Details
Transitions In-Service with Intermediate and Learning Resource Teachers	**October**	Transitions 'in-service' provided to MCFN staff to review the transition plan and all necessary information to build capacity around transitions to Grand Erie secondary schools. Grand Erie staff to provide the following documents to staff: ■ Grand Erie Secondary School Registration Form ■ Copy of the 2025-26 Intermediate SN/MCFN Transition Plan ■ Grand Erie Future Grade 9 Resource Guide ■ Right Fit Parent Guide ■ Course Selection Sample Sheet ■ Secondary School Reminder Postcard

Grade 7

Goal: To provide Grade 7 students with awareness of the programs, courses, and opportunities available at five Grand Erie secondary schools, empowering them to make an informed decision when they make their choice in grade 8.

Activity	Date	Details
Secondary Services 'Exploration Activities'	**November**	Grand Erie staff share the "Secondary School Exploration" Activity series and provide delivery support to Grade 7 teachers as requested.
Grade 7 High School Tours	**April**	Grade 7's visit each of the Big Five secondary schools for a school tour and learn about school-specific programming. (PJ, BCI, CSS, MPSS, HSS)

Grade 8

Goal: To support students in developing a plan to complete grade 9 course selection at a Grand Erie School.

Activity	Date	Details
Specialized Services Check-In	**October**	Grand Erie Coordinator met with MCFN 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.
"You Belong Here" Regional Session	**October**	Grade 6 to 8 MCFN students and families are invited to learn more about the transition from elementary to secondary school. The Big 5 schools will be in attendance.
Grand Pathways Events	**October**	The Grand Pathways Events showcase the supports available for the successful transition to a Grand Erie secondary school and post-secondary pathways. These events welcome students from Grades 6 to 12, along with their parents and caregivers, to explore the diverse supports Grand Erie secondary schools offer and the five post-secondary pathways available to support informed decision-making and future planning for every learner.
Grade 8 Day - The Secondary School Experience	**November**	Grade 8 students visit a secondary school to receive general information and experience what secondary school is like. Schools were paired geographically.
Future Grade 9 and Parent Information Nights	**November**	Secondary schools across the district host Future Grade 9 and Parent Information Nights to provide details on Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements, specialized programs, and other school-specific information. These events are open to all families and held in the evenings. Families can attend more than one night. We encourage attending the student's second choice of school to ensure a more informed decision.
You Belong Here "Booth"	**November**	Grand Erie staff to showcase secondary supports to MCFN students and families and answer questions
Tech is Grand Day	**December**	This event is run by the Curriculum and Student Achievement Team (Secondary Team) in partnership with the Indigenous Education team. Grade 8 students explore Grand Erie's technology and get a taste of STEAM education in Grand Erie through a series of design challenges.

Grade 8 *Cntd.*

Activity	Date	Details
Grade 9 Course Selection Registration Package deliveries	**January**	Registration Packages delivered to elementary schools: ■ Grand Erie Secondary School Registration Form ■ Course Selection Form ■ Voluntary Self-Identification Form ■ Grade 8 Educator Checklist ■ Future Grade 9 resource page
Registration Support Days	**February**	Grand Erie Staff provide on-site support for parents/caregivers to drop in for assistance with completing registration forms.
Registration packages due	**February**	Completed registration packages should be submitted directly to MCFN Transitions Leads.
Self- Contained Placements	**May**	Specialized Services will confirm self-contained placement options
Former Grads visit Intermediate classes	**May/June**	Federal School grads visit their home schools to share their Grade 9 experience. Education Counsellors and/or Grad Coaches will recruit Grade 9 students and will work with Grade 8 teachers to decide on a date. Schools will be paired geographically.
Grade 8 Transition meetings with teachers	**May**	Grand Erie staff and each Grade 8 teacher will meet to discuss the Grand Erie Transition Form completed by the Grade 8 educator. Coordinated with MCFN Transitions Leads.
Grade 8 Parent meetings *Optional	**May** As requested by families	Families may request a meeting with Grand Erie school staff to address questions and concerns regarding their child's transition to secondary school. They can request that the MCFN Education Counsellor or Graduation Coach at the school to attend. For schools without Indigenous support staff, they may request the MCFN Advisor.

Grade 9

Goal: By the end of Grade 9, students will feel confident and comfortable in their secondary school environment and have established meaningful relationships with peers and teachers.

Activity	Date	Details
Grade 9 / Welcome Back BBQ	**Week before school start**	Hosted by various schools.
Mentorship Program	**Developing**	Available to all Grade 9 FMNI students. Grade 11 and 12 FNMI volunteers will be paired with a Grade 9 student.

Alternative Education Programs and Courses of Choice

Grand Erie has developed a variety of innovative education programs to meet the needs of MCFN students. These programs offer delivery models to meet the needs of all learners, including those who may require re-engagement programs include experiential and culturally relevant learning, and alternative ways to earn secondary school credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Land-Based Learning Course Bundle

The Indigenous land based course bundle supports students to explore English, Geography, Math and Science through an empowering, culturally relevant, learning-from-the-land lens. These four Grade 9 compulsory classes are taught with Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe perspectives, and an Indigenous context brought to the curriculum.

Two courses are offered each semester, providing half-days of learning to gain hands-on experiences fostering a deeper understanding of our relationships to the land, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the preservation of Indigenous knowledge and traditions.



Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Grade 9
- **Supported Pathway:** All grades and pathways
- **Course Details:** Course of choice
- **Location:** Hagersville Secondary

NATIONS and New Start

The NATIONS and New Start programs provide alternative learning for secondary students from Six Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and surrounding areas. It serves secondary students who require re-engagement and attendance support, alternative learning models which includes a smaller and more flexible learning environment.

Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Grand Erie secondary students in Grades 9-10, up to age 21 years old
- **Supported Pathways:** All grades and pathways.
- **Program Details:** Students must be recommended through the in-school team, and have exhausted resources and supports at their home school. Program includes in-person and e-learning courses, PLAR, and 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 2 Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) specific to Indigenous students.

Ohahi:yo Program

In partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services – Youth Justice Services Division, Grand Erie employs 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

Ratiweientehta's – They Are Learning

Grand Erie has partnered with Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services to offer an ECPP classroom. 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
- **Location:** Ganohkwrasra Youth Lodge facility

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Students in the Health & Wellness SHSM with a Lacrosse Focus at McKinnon Park Secondary School gain hands on learning experiences that connect sport, wellness, leadership, and Indigenous culture. Facilitated in partnership with Haudenosaunee Sports Development at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena, students participate in sector focused courses, cooperative education placements, industry certifications, and experiential learning opportunities that develop lacrosse skills, sport leadership abilities, health promotion knowledge, and an appreciation for traditional teachings. These authentic experiences build confidence, cultural understanding, and career readiness for pathways in health, recreation, kinesiology, athletic therapy, and Indigenous wellness.



Program Highlights:

- **Eligible Students:** Grade 11 and up
- **Supported Pathway:** All grades and pathways
- **Course Details:** Course of choice
- **Location:** McKinnon Park Secondary School, Iroquois Lacrosse Arena

Celebrating Indigenous Student Success, Events and Activities

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



On September 30, and every day, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. Students and staff across Grand Erie are encouraged to wear orange shirts as schools engage with resources that help learners understand the complex history and legacy of residential schools. This is a time for all of us to reflect on the ongoing impact of these institutions on Indigenous Peoples, to recognize the strength and resilience of survivors.

Indigenous Student Association (ISA)



Pauline Johnson's ISA was honoured with a Peace Medal, awarded by the YMCA Hamilton Burlington Brantford to recognize individuals and groups who demonstrate a commitment to the values of peace through contributions made within their local, national or global communities. A large part of Pauline Johnson's ISA focus is one events that engage the whole community. The annual Every Child Matters football game and Thunderbird Festival are two examples of this work.

Thunderbird Festival



Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School's annual Thunderbird Festival brought student art, Indigenous cultural traditions, music and dance together in a celebration of community, identity and belonging. The festival, organized by the Indigenous Student Association (ISA), was a day-long, student-led event that extended into the evening on May 15, welcoming community members to participate in performances, workshops and cultural activities.

United Indigenous Student Council Celebrates a Year of Leadership, Culture and Connection



The United Indigenous Student Council (UISC) brought the school year to a meaningful close with a vibrant year-end celebration. The event welcomed students and staff from secondary schools across Grand Erie for a day filled with drumming, dancing, cultural activities, and opportunities to connect. With ideas generated by student leaders and the support of the Indigenous Education team, the gathering reflected a shared commitment to honoring Indigenous culture, community, and ways of being.

Throughout the day, attendees took part in traditional dances and opportunities to learn from one another, in an event that highlighted the leadership and dedication of Indigenous students from across the board. The event showcased the power of student voice and the importance of creating opportunities for Indigenous learners to see themselves reflected, celebrated, and connected. Students shared what the UISC has meant to them and reflected on the impact of the year-end gathering.

The Learn Lead Inspire Award Celebrates Outstanding Members of the Grand Erie Community



Hiram Pitawanakwat-Miller, a Grade 10 student who has made a meaningful impact within the Hagersville Secondary School community through his involvement in the Land-Based Learning program and the values it upholds. Hiram consistently demonstrates respect, leadership, and connection by supporting students who benefit from encouragement and a sense of belonging.

Beyond the classroom, his commitment to wrestling as an extracurricular has become a way to encourage younger students to get involved in school life. He inspires his peers to strengthen their own secondary school experiences while continuing to grow as a dedicated learner and emerging leader himself. Hiram approaches his studies with diligence and determination and continues to expand his involvement and leadership at school.

Artisan Contest Recognition



Chief Executive Officer; JoAnna Roberto held a Call for All Artisans contest. This initiative invited students and employees to interpret the district's core vision—Learn, Lead, Inspire—and express what it means to them through art. The art submissions had to be original but could be in any medium, including traditional, digital, or permanent displays. The Land-Based Learning Program had a submission and participated as one of the art pieces recognized at the event on May 26th.

Ryleigh Staats, Indigenous Student Trustee



Ryleigh Staats draws on her experiences as a student athlete, seeing the parallels between sport and leadership, responsibility and optimism. She was elected by the United Indigenous Student Council through a process of consensus-building, which aims to reach holistic decisions through community values, traditional practices and a deep respect for the interconnectedness of individuals within that community.

"For me, the inspiration to run for student trustee comes from past and current generations in my family; past generations before me were residential school survivors who had to fight hard for me to have a voice now," said Ryleigh Staats, a student at Delhi District Secondary School who plans to draw on this strong legacy and work ethic to advocate for and uplift the voices of Indigenous students across Grand Erie. "Being Indigenous, you don't just endure generational trauma, you take that power and resilience with you every day."

Triple Crown Champions



For the Third year in a row, the McKinnon Park boys field lacrosse team were OFSAA A/AA Gold Medalists! Teams across schools continues to grow.

- Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School: Boys and girls
- McKinnon Park Secondary School: Boys and girls
- Hagersville Secondary School: Boys and girls
- Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School: Boys
- Waterford District High School: Boys
- Paris District High School: Boys



Grand Erie District School Board

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