

Education Services Agreement

Annual Report

2025-26



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

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 2025-26 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 2025-26 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
- 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 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 Community Liaison Worker, Six Nations Education Counsellors and Indigenous 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. In person and online Secondary Indigenous language courses in Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk language), Gayogohónq? néha? (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, 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. Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC)
3. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
4. Information sessions, events and activities for transitions from Grade 8
5. Indigenous Speakers and community events



› 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

Julie White

Superintendent responsible for Indigenous Education

Danielle VanEvery

Six Nations Advisor

Carly Vyse

Six Nations Education Counsellor

Hagersville Secondary School

Carey Vyse

Six Nations Education Counsellor

Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School

McKinnon Park Secondary School

Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School - as needed

Delby Powless

Six Nations Education Counsellor

McKinnon Park Secondary School

Ashlee Williams

Six Nations Community Liaison Worker

Stacy Hill

System Leader of Indigenous Education

Sandra Graham

Six Nations Federal Schools Representative

JoAnna Roberto

Chief Executive Officer

Travis Anderson

Indigenous Services Canada Director of Education
responsible for Six Nations

Audrey Powless-Bomberry

Six Nations Elected Council Education Portfolio Holder

Ryleigh Staats

Grand Erie District School Board

Indigenous Student Trustee

Amy Bomberry

Everlasting Tree School representative

› A Message from the Six Nations Trustee



Shekoh sewakwekoh/Hello Everyone.

This 2025-2026 school year has been interesting given the number of new directives from the Ministry of Education.

This year Grand Erie welcomed 122 Grade 9 students from Six Nations to join the 98 Grade 10s, 122 Grade 11s, and 162 Grade 12s and a few doing what is called a “Victory Lap” to complete some courses or raise their mark in others. All together Grand Erie has hosted 504 students under the Six Nations Educational Services Agreement (ESA).

The Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC) continued with the obligatory four meetings per year and this school year we changed, somewhat, our discussion topics, adding in more student data for review and consideration by the SNAC members. We now regularly review student well-being in terms of Mathematics, Literacy and upcoming graduations, with a view to providing support where Six Nations students may be experiencing difficulty. In addition, SNAC members consider attendance rates for our students in order that students can be supported.

This school year ended our Five Year Strategic Plan with all around good success, with a continued focus on supporting Six Nations student success as We Lead Forward in the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. Data and highlights of student success will be shared within this report.

We are now happy to have a number of Six Nations Grand Erie employees who provide guidance and support to our Six Nations students. These staff members will be identified further into this Report.

Work at Grand Erie

This year I sat on the Governance Committee, the Director’s Performance Review Committee, Policy & Program Committee and I chaired the Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC). For the 2024-25 Graduations, I attended at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Hagersville Secondary.

At Fall Graduations last year, my family and I initiated the annual Philbert Award given to one Six Nations student



Claudine VanEvery-Albert
Represents Six Nations
Students Under The ESA



and one Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation senior student who has excelled in computer courses. The award will be five hundred dollars each.

Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)

I have now resigned as Grand Erie’s Voting Representative on the OPSBA Board of Directors but will remain on the First Nations Inuit & Métis Council that liaises with and makes Onkwehonweh recommendations to the OPSBA Board of Directors. Via this letter, I am giving a ‘shout-out’ to all of our Six Nations Grand Erie employees for the time and support that they have given our Six Nations and other Onkwehonweh students in the Board. You all have done a great job!

I send ‘Niawehkawah’ to the Chief Executive Officer; JoAnna Roberto, her office team and the Senior Team with special reference to Superintendent Julie White who worked closely with me in the past school year. And also a big niawehkawah to my fellow trustees on the Board – your work is never done.

To the parents and caregivers: I appreciate all of the work that you do to get your ‘charges’ off to school every day. I know that this is not always an easy task!

Niawenkowah.

Claudine-Yakowennatoken

Final Data Report 2025-26

This report provides aggregated data for Six Nations students in Grades 9 through 12 attending the Grand Erie District School Board in 2025-26.

Data Includes:

- Enrolment numbers
- Aggregated attendance records
- Aggregated suspension totals
- Secondary school credit accumulation by grade
- Aggregated EQAO scores for Grades 9 and 10
- Aggregated IEP data by exceptionality

Grade	Number of Students
9	122
10	98
11	122
12	162
Total	504

Grade	Number of Students
Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School	93
Cayuga Secondary School	10
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives	<6
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - ILC	17
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - Night School	12
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives - Summer School	6
Hagersville Secondary School	147
McKinnon Park Secondary School	180
North Park Collegiate and Vocational School	8
Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School	11
Tollgate Technological Skills Centre	12
Waterford District High School	<6
Total	504

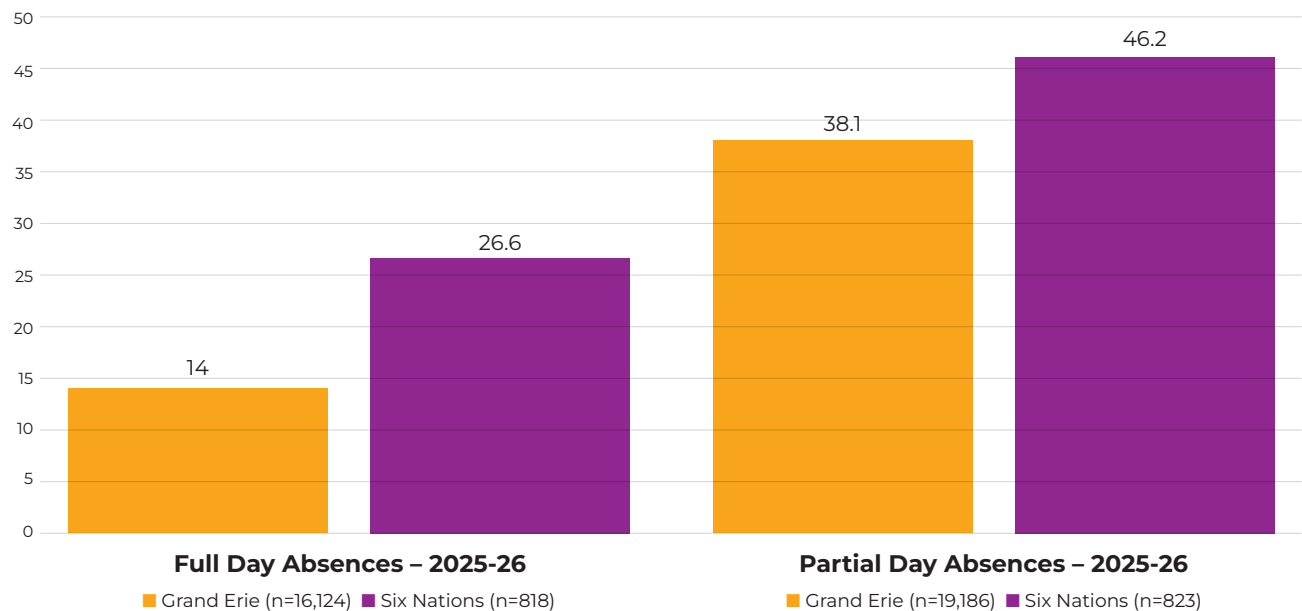


Note: This data represents students that had an active enrolment at some point during the school year.

Final Data Report 2025-26

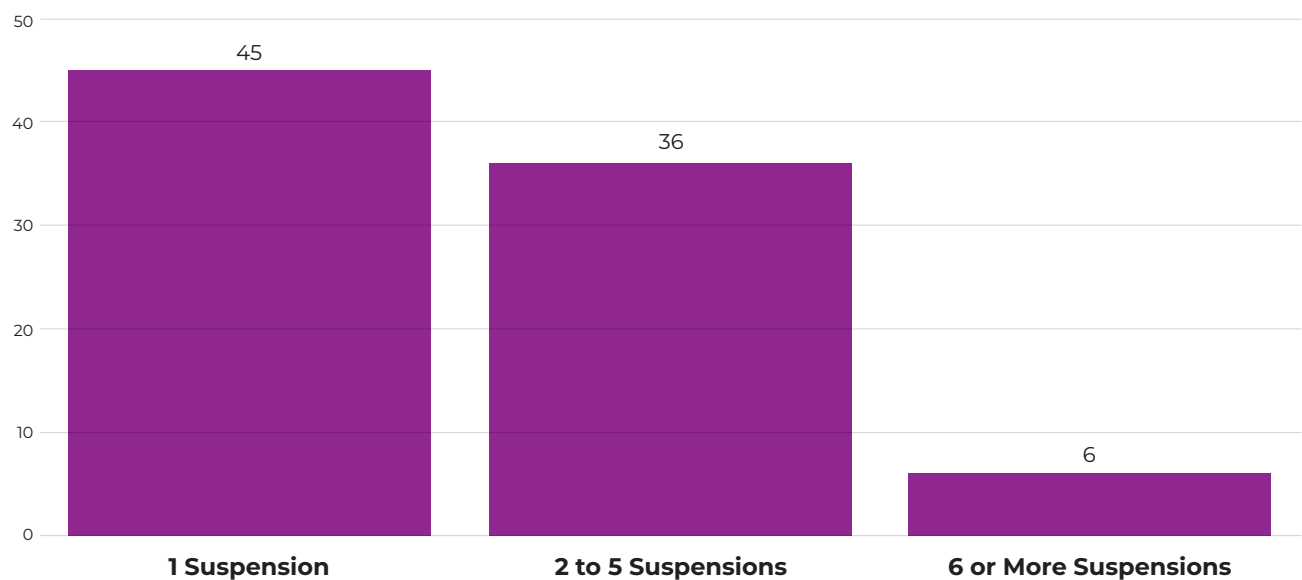
Aggregated Attendance Records

Average number of Absences in 2025-26



Aggregated Suspension Totals

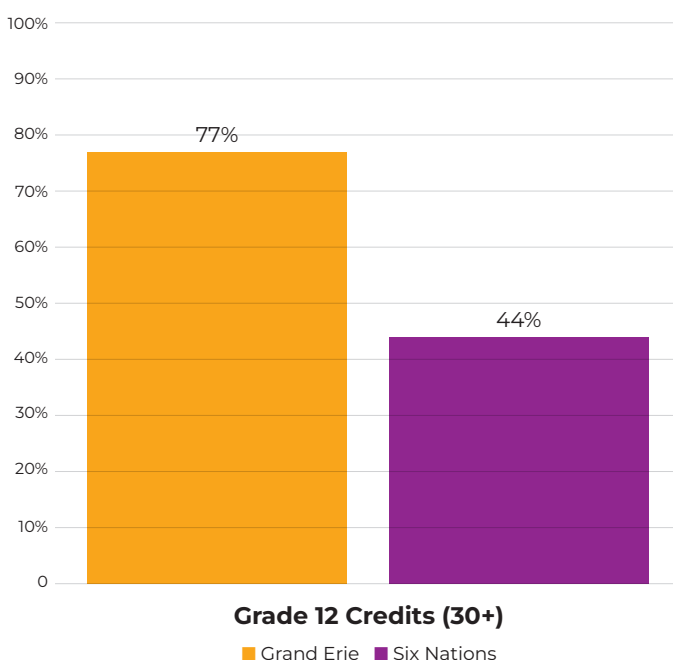
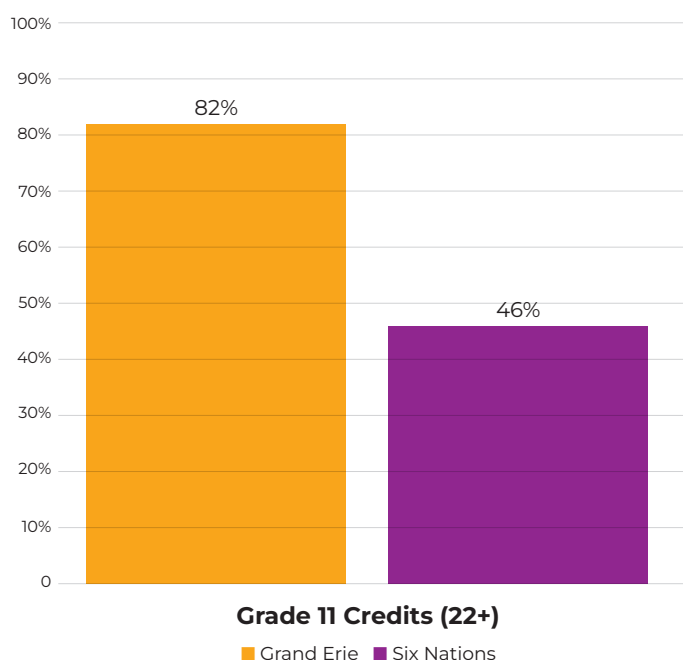
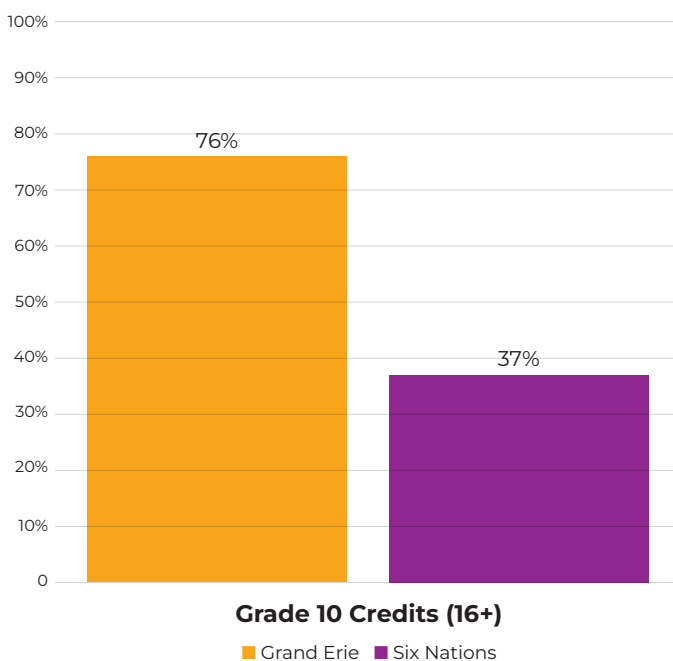
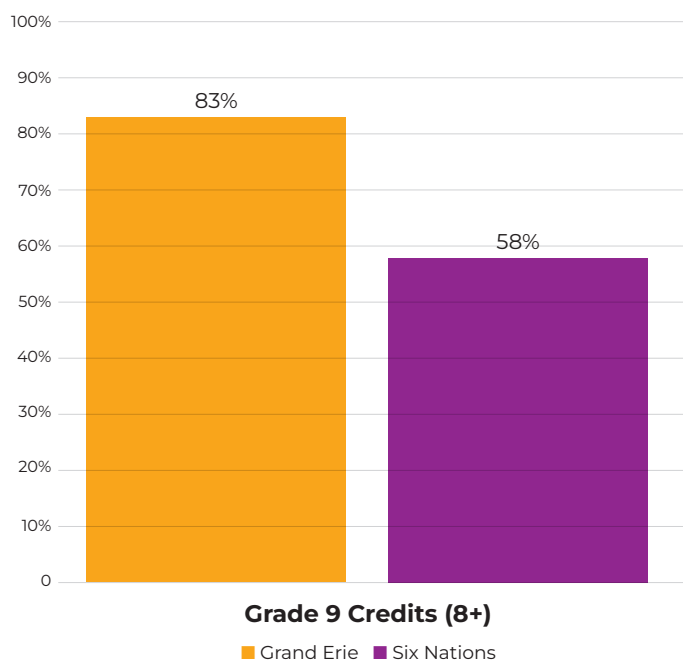
Number of Suspensions in 2025-26



Final Data Report 2025-26

Credit Accumulation by Grade

Credit Accumulation at the Year-End in 2025-26

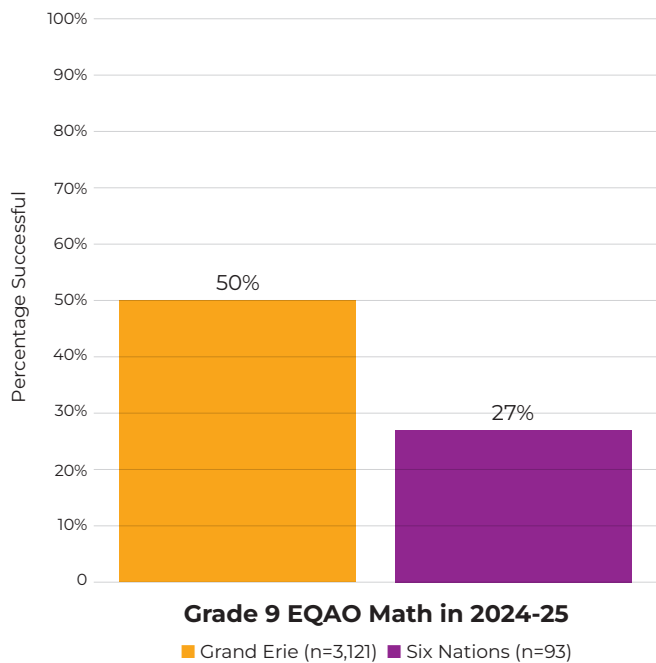


Note: This data represents the proportion of students on track to graduate among students taking a full course load (at least 6 courses).

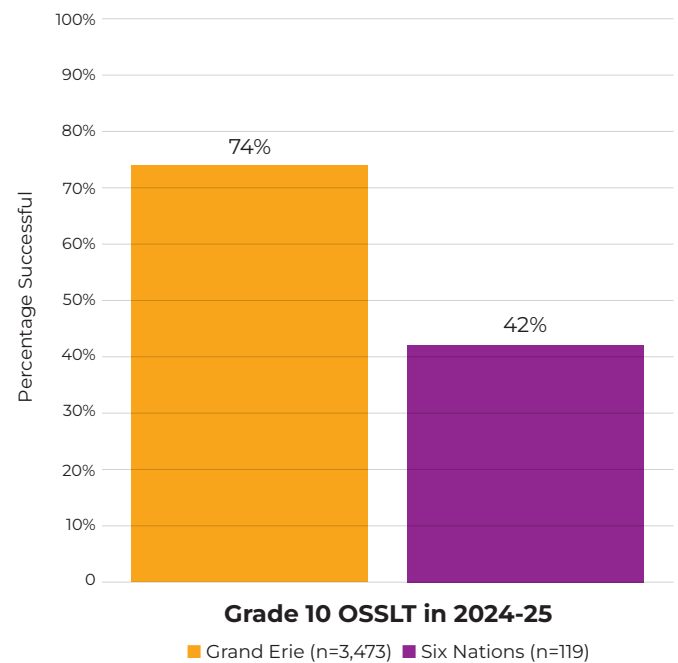
Final Data Report 2025-26

Aggregated EQAO Scores for Grades 9 and 10

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics



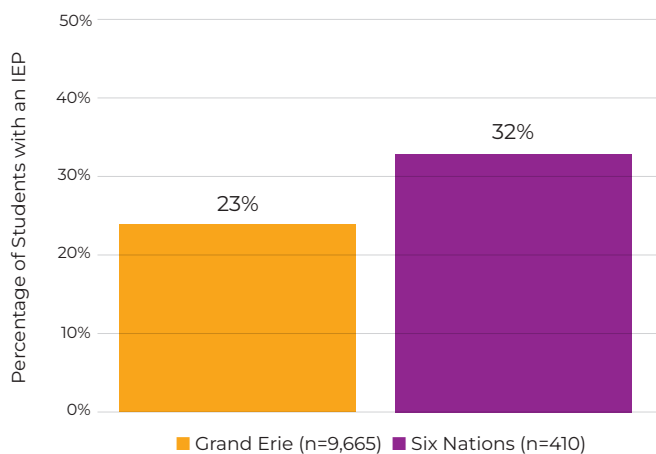
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)



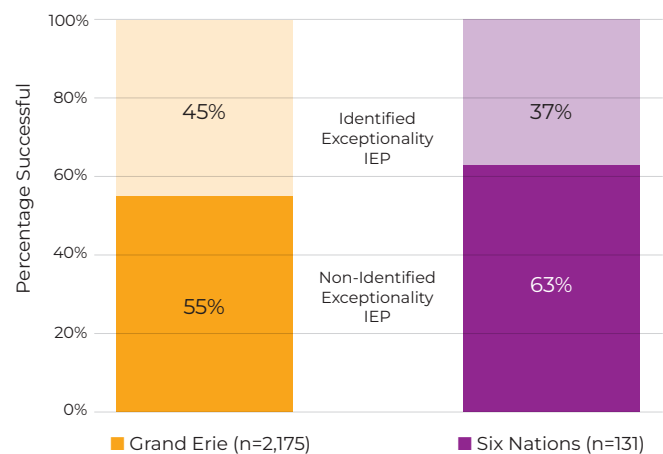
Note: These data represent students that are first-time eligible and fully participating

Aggregated IEP Data

Percentage of students with an IEP in 2025-26



Percentage of IEPs with and without an Exceptionality in 2025-26



Notes: These data represent students with an IEP among those actively enrolled in the board for the full 2025-26 year.

› Education Service Agreement Staff Supports

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 Six Nations 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 education counselling and liaison services to Six Nations students, and to:

- Participate in all Individual Placement and Review Committee meetings conducted for Six Nations students
- Participate as a member of the student success and in-school resource team.
- Establish and maintain up-to-date information regarding enrollment, retention, and success rates of 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 in secondary education

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' enrollment, retention and success rates in secondary education
- Support Six Nations students who have been referred by secondary schools for issues related to poor attendance and provide counseling for students to support regular attendance and transition back to school.



› 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 2025-26, 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

› Additional ESA Undertakings

Partnership with Six Nations 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 school staff in Grand Erie professional development for teachers
- Increased involvement of Six Nations parents/caregivers in the education of their children

Haudenosaunee 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 to offer Mohawk and Cayuga languages courses through in-person and online platforms. We were able to offer these courses to any Grand Erie student in Grades 7 and up.

Grand Erie supports and participates in the Kanien'kéha (Mohawk Language) and the Gayogohónǫ́neha (Cayuga Language) Circles that engage Language teachers in a review process that ends with recommendations of successful teacher candidates to the Ontario College of Teachers to teach Kanien'kéha or Gayogohónǫ́neha in Ontario schools.

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 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.

For the 2025-26 school year, Grand Erie supported summer e-learning courses by providing drop-in support with a qualified teacher, access to technology and wifi, and daily snacks within the Six Nations community.

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

Course Code and Title	Enrolment
LNAAO - Native Languages - Cayuga	56
LNABO - Native Languages - Cayuga	6
LNMAO - Native Languages - Mohawk	90
LNMBO - Native Languages - Mohawk	11
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	2,302

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

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 Six Nations/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 2025-2026 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 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.
"You Belong Here" Regional Session	October	Grade 6-8 MCFN/ Six Nations 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 Six Nations 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 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.

Grade 8 Cntd.

Activity	Date	Details
Registration packages due	February	Completed registration packages should be submitted directly to Six Nations and 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 Six Nations 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 Six Nations Education Counsellor or Grad Coach at the school to attend. For schools without Indigenous support staff, they may request the Six Nations Advisor.
Grade 8 EPIC Jobs	May 21	Six Nations Grade 8s will be invited to participate in the event. Bussing, etc covered by Grand Erie. Students participate in the EPIC Jobs event in Brantford to explore the Skilled Trades and Pathway opportunities.
Six Nations Grade 8 IPRC meetings for those going into secondary school self-contained program	April/May	The student's secondary school LRT and/or designate may be invited to attend the IPRC meetings for those Grade 8 students whose placements are confirmed at their school. It is recommended the school's Native Education Counsellor, or the Native Advisor attend as well. To be confirmed by Six Nations Transition Leads.
Specialized Services- Additional School based transition visits/ activities/supports	May/June	Transition visits/activities/supports will be organized by school-based staff based on individual student needs.

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 Six Nations 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.
- **Location:** Temporarily located at Hagersville Secondary as a separate campus.



Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP)

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 (ECP) 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 ECP classroom located in Six Nations. 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:** Ganohkwasra 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.



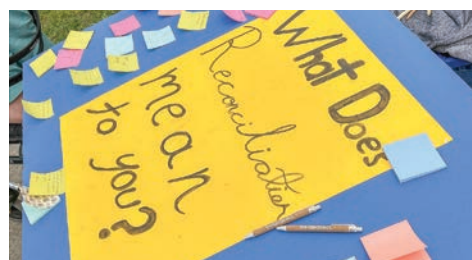
Indigenous Student Association (ISA)

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 on 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.



Storytellers Recognized in Laurier Stedman Competition

This year's Laurier Stedman Prize competition recognized seven writers in Grand Erie. The prizes, granted by Laurier Brantford's Faculty of Liberal Arts, celebrate secondary students for their creative storytelling through original, unpublished works of fiction. Isabella Charles attending NATIONS and New Start program was recognized for her short story; The House that Knows.



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, who is Haudenosaunee, Turtle clan, and 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





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