

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WORKER: ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Background

An Aboriginal Community Worker, reporting to the Principal, is a liaison between Aboriginal families and the school. This position is valuable in increasing awareness of Aboriginal student needs and providing support for Aboriginal students day-to-day in their learning environment.

Procedures

The Aboriginal Community Worker will have specific responsibilities for:

1. Promoting cultural awareness and understanding:
 - 1.1 Must possess knowledge of the Aboriginal culture and their community.
 - 1.2 Coordinates the establishment of an Elder program.
 - 1.3 Coordinates the visits of Aboriginal resource people.
 - 1.4 Coordinates ongoing cultural activities (i.e. dance groups; cultural clubs).

2. Building relationships between the Aboriginal community and the school:
 - 2.1 Use of home visitations.
 - 2.2 Coordinating meetings between staff and families.
 - 2.3 Organizing school/community cultural activities when appropriate.
 - 2.4 Encourage parents/guardians to be involved in their children's education.

3. Working with families to help students stay in school:
 - 3.1 Discuss student program needs with family and school.
 - 3.2 Meet student transportation needs if necessary.
 - 3.3 Help families realize the importance of regular attendance.
 - 3.4 Promote benefits of an education in cultural context.
 - 3.5 Liaison between the school, family and support agencies.

4. Advocacy
 - 4.1 Link community services to address student needs.

- 4.2 Advocate on behalf of students or their families on issues involving: housing, social services, education, and justice system.
 - 4.3 Advocate on behalf of student on attendance issues.
5. Counseling and Mediation
- 5.1 Counseling may be of a direct nature, or may involve steering the student in the appropriate direction of a school counselor in the area of concern.
 - 5.2 The Aboriginal Community Worker, having developed the trust of the family and school personnel, may help resolve conflicts.
 - 5.3 In cases where the mediation is being carried out by another party the Aboriginal Community Worker may be called upon to serve as an additional voice for the student/family involved.
6. Confidentiality
- 6.1 At no time should an Aboriginal Community Worker discuss, in public, information pertaining to employees, students or the operation of the division. An Aboriginal Community Worker is expected to respect the confidential nature of their position by avoiding discussion about any topics that are not formally communicated to the public by the administration of the school or the school division. Breaching confidentiality is a serious violation of acceptable conduct and *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
7. Other Duties As Assigned
- 7.1 Performs other duties and obligations as assigned by the Principal.