

Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards Needs Assessment Survey

Educator Brief: 2021 and 2023 Comparisons

Purpose

The Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards (OSEU) Needs Assessment survey was administered by the South Dakota Department of Education to understand the implementation of the OSEU and the professional development support and resources needed to implement the OSEU in South Dakota schools. The survey was first administered in the early fall of 2021 and then again in the late fall of 2023, after minor revisions were made in collaboration with the Region 11 Comprehensive Center. The results will help the state engage in continuous quality improvement to expand statewide implementation of the OSEU.

Survey Respondents

2021: 554 educators (91% teachers and 9% paraprofessionals) representing 125 districts

2023: 384 educators (90% teachers and 10% paraprofessionals) representing public (91%), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)/tribal contact (7%), and private (2%) school districts

Select Results

Educators were more likely to report awareness of the OSEU and to agree that teaching the OSEU is important in 2023.

- » 84% of educators indicated awareness of the OSEU in 2023 (an **increase** of 18% from 2021).
- » 77% of educators agreed that it is important to implement the OSEU in every classroom in 2023 (an **increase** of 7% from 2021).

Educators were more likely to report teaching OSEU lessons, understanding OSEU concepts, and assessing student understanding of the OSEU, and more likely to report confidence in teaching OSEU lesson plans in 2023.

- » 62% of educators indicated that they taught the OSEU lessons in their classroom in 2023 (an **increase** of 17% from 2021).
- » 55% of teachers agreed that they know the OSEU concepts well enough to teach them in 2023 (an **increase** of 18% from 2021).
- » 42% of educators reported assessing student understanding of the OSEU in 2023 (an **increase** of 15% from 2021).
- » 49% of educators agreed that they are confident in teaching OSEU lesson plans in their classrooms in 2023 (an **increase** of 18% from 2021).

Educators identified OSEU integration specific to content, building confidence to teach the OSEU, and access to quality resources as necessary to support OSEU implementation. Fewer educators in the 2023 survey reported they were unfamiliar with OSEU resources.

- » Uncertainty about how to integrate the OSEU with my content area(s) [identified by 44% of educators; an **increase** of 5% from 2021]
- » Lack of confidence (identified by 38% of educators; an **increase** of 8% from 2021)
- » Unfamiliarity with resources (identified by 38% of educators; a **decrease** of 12% from 2021)
- » Availability of OSEU resources and materials for my content area(s) [identified by 38% of educators; not asked on the 2021 survey]

Select Quotes from 2023 Survey Respondents

"I love the OSEUs as they are, would just like to see more material developed for all subjects. Ideally, all classrooms should be able to incorporate them on a daily basis no matter the content of the day."

"I would very much like to teach the OSEU standards but I honestly don't know how to start....I need coaching. Also, I need time. There is not time available in my duty to work with other teachers or staff that have expertise with teaching OSEU standards."