



Wóokiye – OSEU Project

Očhéthi šakówin Essential Understandings

The Office of Indian Education
&
The SD Department of Education

Department of Tribal Relations

- ▶ The Office of Indian Education has successfully transitioned from the Department of Education to the Department of Tribal Relations, allowing for more flexibility to work with all schools that serve indigenous students.

- ▶ In partnership with the Department of Education, the Office of Indian Education continues to provide input for the Civics Standards Work Group by advocating for the inclusion of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings.



“Wóokiye”

- × The Lakota term Wóokiye means to help, aid, assist.
- × The goal of this effort is to create and implement a network of support that will help, aid, and assist teachers as they become proficient in using the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU). This effort will be called the Wóokiye teacher project. This project will promote the OSEU and support culturally responsive teaching practices. They will mentor teachers, collaborate with administration and help create training and awareness for school boards.

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. At the top, a large sun with a face and rays is depicted in shades of yellow and orange. Below the sun, a group of Native American people, including men, women, and children, are shown in traditional clothing. The scene is set in a landscape with rolling hills, small trees, and dragonflies in the foreground.

Wóokiye Project

- ▶ The goal of this effort is to create and implement a network of support that will help, aid, and assist teachers as they become proficient in using the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU).
- ▶ Provide resources and support in creating resources that support OSEU standards, and to seek out schools and teachers that are currently implementing OSEU standards.
- ▶ DOE leads and funds a State mentoring program to support first and second year teachers. The Wóokiye project will collaborate with DOE and TIE to provide training and support to three pilot schools with Native American populations.

WÓOKIYE TEACHERS

School
One
5 Wóokiye
Teachers

School
Two
5 Wóokiye
Teachers

School
Three
5 Wóokiye
Teachers

Wóokiye
Teacher
1

Wóokiye
Teacher
2

Wóokiye
Teacher
4

Wóokiye
Teacher
3

Wóokiye
Teacher
5

Total= 20 Wóokiye Teachers

Wóokiye Teachers will:

- ❖ Attend Monthly Wóokiye Teacher meetings. (Meetings will be virtual using Zoom)
- ❖ Serve as school Point of Contact. (Building principal will be included in all communication)
- ❖ Assist other teachers with the integration of OSEUS into teacher lesson plans (Mentoring)
- ❖ Attend four Wóokiye professional development activities and provide that information back to their school community.
- ❖ Assist with the school's development & implementation of their school-wide plan

PILOT SCHOOLS

Identify three pilot schools to begin incorporating the Wóokiye teacher project that promotes the implementation of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU) through introduction to the concept of Wóokiye (help, aid, assist) and how that mentorship will be supported by the SD Office of Indian Education.

- Identify three pilot schools based on Wóokiye teacher applications.
- Provide training for Wóokiye Teachers from each school.
- Provide professional development for each school.
- Develop a Wóokiye teacher model at each pilot school that focuses on leadership development of teachers serving in high needs schools.
- Support and resources from the Office of Indian Education will be consider the needs at each Pilot School.

How does a school become a Pilot School for this project?

- Schools with five Wóokiye teacher applications submitted before the deadline (April 17) will be invited to apply to be a pilot school.
- If a school has five applications submitted, they will be contacted after the deadline by the Office of Indian Education for more information.

What are the expectations of a Wóokiye Pilot School?

Pilot schools will:

- a. Receive resources and support from the SD Office of Indian Education in terms of implementing the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU).
- b. Work with their Wóokiye Teachers to establish professional development needs that are in line the Wóokiye professional development plan.
- c. Allow Wóokiye Teachers to facilitate a professional development event in their district.
- d. Participate in surveys from the Office of Indian Education.
- e. Develop a school-wide OSEU plan for all grades in their school.

**South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council
will serve as the advisory body for this grant**

MISSION

The mission of the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council is to promote the highest quality of education for all American Indian children in South Dakota that is based in cultural relevancy to produce positive educational outcomes.

South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council

Tribal Designee-Oglala Sioux Tribe
Dayna Brave Eagle

Tribal Designee-Cheyenne River Sioux
Tribe Cherie Farlee

Tribal Designee-Sisseton-Wahpeton
Oyate Sherry Johnson

Tribal Designee-Flandreau Sioux Tribe
Thomas Williams

Tribal Designee-Yankton Sioux Tribe
Jolene Arrow

Tribal Designee-Standing Rock Sioux
Tribe Emma Jean Blue Earth

Tribal Designee-Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Cindy Young

Tribal Grant School Representative
Charles Cuny

Tribal College and Universities
Representative
Cheryl Medearis

Public School District
Representative Megan Deal

Public School District
Representative Whitnee Pearce

Public School District
Representative Ann Robertson

Public School District
Representative Lisa Bordeaux-Taken
Alive

Public School District
Representative Gail Swenson

Nominated by Director OIE

At Large Jim Curran

At Large Sarah Pierce

At Large Karyl Knudson

Bureau of Indian Education
Representative Overall Fox

SD Education Association Representative
MaryMcCorkle

Board of Education Standards
Representative
Jacqueline Sly

Board of Education Standards
Representative
Kay Schallenkamp

Board of Regents Representative
Jay Perry

Ex-officio member Dept Tribal Relations
David Flute

Ex-officio member Dept of Education
Ben Jones

Executive Secretary Dept of Tribal
Relations Keri Dupris

PURPOSE

The purpose of the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council shall be to:

1. Act as an advisory body to the Secretary of the Department of Tribal Relations, and the Secretary of the Department of Education
2. Assist the South Dakota Office of Indian Education and the Department of Tribal Relations in building partnerships that support the needs of American Indian Students in South Dakota
3. Make recommendations that prioritize the cultural proficiency necessary to promote educational equity inclusive to the culture of American Indian students
4. Encourage initiatives that support American Indian students to meet or to exceed the State's achievement standards
5. Promote the inclusion of [Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings \(OSEU\)](#)
6. Promote communication among South Dakota educators to address the needs of American Indian students
7. Provide a report summarizing the recommendations of the Advisory Council to the Secretary of Tribal Relations, Governor's Office and Tribes by October 31 of each year

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations & South Dakota Department of Education Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings Plan

Juliana White Bull-Taken Alive,
Director of Office of Indian Education



Joe Moran,
Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Becky Nelson,
Director of Division of Learning & Instruction



Can first year teachers apply?

- If a teacher has not completed their first year of teacher, they would not be considered.
- Teachers that have completed their first year of teacher are welcome to apply. However, priority will be given to teachers with five or more years of teaching experience.

Can an administrator apply?

Yes, school administrators can apply to be a Wóokiye Teacher. They would need to follow the same guidelines as the teachers including monthly logs, meetings, developing lesson plans/school-wide plans, and participate in the five day training.

Website: www.SDIndigenousED.org