



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The program/strategy/initiative must have been in operation for a minimum of one year

School Board Keewatin-Patricia DSB

Contact Person and Email Address Sean Monteith

Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy Four Directions Graduation Coach

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative/Strategy

Description of Program/Initiative/Strategy (max 200 words)

The focus is on practices that excite, engage and increase student confidence, achievement and well-being. In the brief description please provide answers to the following questions: Where the program/initiative/strategy is delivered (school/board locations)? Who is responsible for delivering and monitoring the program/initiative/strategy? Who is the target audience? Are there any community partnerships involved? Are there any staffing or budget implications? Are there any special resources required? What are your indicators of success, etc.?

With much focus and increasing attention on graduation gaps, particularly the graduation rates of Northern Ontario students specifically Indigenous students, the KPSDSB felt a different approach was required. Historically graduating at about $\frac{1}{3}$ the average Board graduation rate, Indigenous students and the experiences they bring to school caused a disruption to the status quo and as a result a whole new approach to what it would take to see them graduate, consistently and on par with non-Indigenous students.

What has been the impact on Student Learning? (max 200 words)

Started three years ago at Dryden High School, and now expanded to more high schools in Kenora, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout, the initial cohort of students is on track with credits and expected to graduate next June in numbers not experienced before and closer to 100% of the original Grade 9 class.