

Executive Summary

The Enweyang Language Nest is a licensed Child Care program at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) that is dedicated to providing children with a quality learning experience in the Ojibwe language. Students learn a second language as they study core academic subjects.

The objectives of the language nest are threefold:

- i.) to mentor teacher education students in American Indian language focused cohorts in Ojibwe language instructional practice
- ii.) to assist teacher candidates in acquiring requisite language skills
- iii.) to help restore the Ojibwe language to the Native American community through the education of children

The nest will support a single cohort of students who will enroll in a multi-year program. It is our hope to extend the early childhood program into a kindergarten level program.

The language nest conversation between UMD and ISD 709 has been taking place the last several years. This kindergarten level program is a unique opportunity for each institution to collaborate in program delivery. All students in the program would enroll as students of ISD 709. In the spirit of maintaining the immersion program, instruction would be based out of the Chester Park site. The Enweyang teacher would provide instruction in specialty subjects including music, art, physical education, computer studies, and science/social studies. An ISD 709 teacher would provide instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics.

An additional goal of the language nest program is to empower students with knowledge of language and culture that can add to the knowledge base of their peers upon reentry to regular education. We anticipate that one third of the student population will be from out of district, and this is a benefit to ISD 709. UMD is committed to creating a cost neutral partnership, and one that would be actualized every few years when there is a cohort of students ready for Kindergarten programming.

University of Minnesota Duluth
Enweyang Language Nest

Six-Year Plan

Kindergarten Level	Maawanj 2
Pre K (4 year olds)	Maawanj 2
Kindergarten Level	Maawanj 2/Gekinoo 4
Pre K (3 year olds)	Maawanj 2/Gekinoo 4
Pre K (4 year olds)	Maawanj 2/Gekinoo 4
Kindergarten Level	Gekinoo 4

Maawanj = Maawanji'idiwag Early Childhood/ Special Education Program

Gekinoo = Gekinoo'imaagejig Elementary Education Program