

Ojibwe Language Immersion Program Proposal

The mission of the Duluth American Indian Education program is to provide and address the unique educational and culturally related academic needs to American Indian students and to improve American Indian student achievement, retention, and graduation rates through culturally responsive instruction, family, and student engagement and collaborative partnerships with community.

The Duluth Public Schools American Indian Education Department proposes that an Elementary Ojibwe Language Immersion Program be implemented in the Fall of 2014, beginning with Kindergarten and expanding each year by adding the next grade level.

An Ojibwe Immersion Program is not a new concept for the Duluth Public Schools. We have recently had an MOA with UMD and their Enweyang Program for 3 years (2010-2103). Since its inception in 2009, Enweyang has provided Ojibwe Language Immersion instruction to 44 students ages 33 months to 5 years. We look forward to the possibility of renewing and enhancing our collaboration with UMD and the Enweyang Program in our efforts to provide an Elementary Ojibwe Language Immersion Program.

Benefits of an Ojibwe Language Immersion Program

The highest levels of cognitive development within Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning are addressed within an Ojibwe Language Immersion class.

Academic Development

- divergent thinking skills
- analyzing
- problem solving
- critical thinking
- creativity
- flexibility of the mind

Social Development

- Signifies a strong commitment and value on the unique languages and cultures of American Indian tribes
- Increases openness and acceptance of people who speak other languages
- Expands the students' worldview
- Increases an understanding of Ojibwe People and Language
- Increases Engagement and Parental Involvement

Cultural Development

- Strengthen students' identity
- Strengthens self-determination
- Revitalization of Ojibwe Language

The Ojibwe Language Immersion Program will assist Duluth Public Schools in meeting the following Aims and Goals:

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

- Increase Student Achievement, Reduce the Achievement Gap, and Raise Graduation Rates
- Continuously Improve and Enhance the Quality of our Curriculum and Align it to State Standards
- Provide High Quality Staff Development that Aligns with our Goal to Provide Opportunities for Students of Every Culture and Ability to be Successful
- Improve and Enhance Program Offerings Before and After School

SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOLS

- Decrease Bullying Among Students
- Increase Family and Community Involvement, Engagement and Satisfaction, and Deepen our Community Partnerships.

EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, SYSTEMS THAT MAKE THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES

- Increase the Diversity of Staff through Culturally Competent Recruitment and Retention Practices. The Percentage of Staff of Color will Reflect the Percentage of People of Color in our Community
- Expand and Improve Community Use of Facilities that Supports the Needs of Families and the Greater Community

Ojibwemowin
Immersion Budget
2014-15 School
Year - Duluth
Public Schools

Staff/Programming	Description	Amount	Cost Center
Teacher	K-6 Lic Classroom Teacher with ability to teach in Ojibwe and translate curriculum - 1.0 FTE	94000	General Fund - Site Allocation
Classroom Assistant	Assistant to teacher in all areas - 1.0 FTE	36650	American Indian Education
Elder/Fluent Speaker	Contracted to offer Instruc Lang and Vocab in Ojibwemowin - 2 hrs/day, 5 days/week, @\$25/hr	9500	American Indian Education
Ojibwemowin Curriculum Materials	Books, Workbooks, etc.	3500	American Indian Education
Classroom Materials	Floor rug, SmartBoard, Ojibwemowin Posters Pics etc.	3000	American Indian Education
Staff Development	Training for Instruction and Curriculum - Contractual (Ojibwemowin Immersion Experts) - \$100/hr x 30hrs	3000	OEE
Staff Development	Teacher Rate \$21/hr x 120 hrs	2520	OEE
Staff Development	Classroom Asst rate \$13.86/hr x 120hrs	1664	OEE
Total		153834	