



**CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL  
PRACTICES**

**Approved by  
Sk'elep School BoG  
August 23, 2007**

## SK'ELEP SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

**Reference Topic: Culture**  
**Reference No: (rs hard drive)**

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### **Cultural and Spiritual Practices**

#### **Policy Statement/Goals**

The Board of Sk'elep School values and upholds Secwepemc culture. The Board believes that all Secwepemc cultural teachings in the School should be accurate and a true representation of the Culture. The Board also believes in the importance of maintaining a strong focus and balance between academic instruction and cultural education. Through this policy, the Board seeks to encourage and foster respect for diversity in the practice of First Nations cultural and spiritual traditions among the student population. The Board believes that strengthening Secwepemc cultural knowledge, pride, and practices among students and staff will help to build strong and healthy individuals and communities. The goal of this policy is to provide guidelines for cultural teachings and practices, and to ensure that respect for diversity in cultural, spiritual, customary and religious practices is upheld.

#### **Regulations**

1. Staff and students will respect diversity/differences among family values and traditions in the areas of cultural, spiritual, customary, and religious practices.
2. Staff and students will respect the rights of families to make choices related to their children's participation in cultural ceremonies or spiritual practices organized by the School (eg. sweats, smudges, ceremonies).
3. Students will have the opportunity to participate in ceremonies and cultural events, but will not be required to do so, based on family choices. Students who choose not to participate should have the opportunity to assist with and/or attend the ceremony and that any assistance engaged in by non-participating students will be done in meaningful and inclusive ways.
4. Students must not be punished or demeaned (through language or inference) for either their participation or non-participation in cultural ceremonies or events.
5. The Board, Principal and Staff will provide the leadership in ensuring that these guidelines are respected and followed. Incidents that contradict the spirit and intent of this policy will be brought to the Board of Governors for review and follow-up if required.