

The South Slave Divisional Education Council is committed to a philosophy of education which is built upon a foundation of enabling communities, District Education Authorities (DEAs), schools, staff members, and parents assist students to reach their potential. Student achievement is at the heart of everyone’s work at the South Slave Divisional Education Council and is the common thread connecting the Council’s vision, mission, beliefs and values.

<p><b>VISION</b> <b>All individuals reach their educational potential</b></p>	<p>The <i>Vision</i> statement describes our vision of education in a perfect world with no restrictions.</p>
<p><b>MISSION</b> <i>The South Slave Divisional Education Council strives to prepare students to create their futures by ensuring high levels of learning for ALL.</i></p>	<p>The <i>Mission</i> is a broad statement describing the purpose of the Council.</p>
<p><b>COMMON ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS</b> We believe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education must begin with the child and build upon the foundations of culture, heritage and language;</li> <li>2. Parents are the child’s first teachers; The education of children is a shared responsibility of parents, teachers and the students themselves;</li> <li>3. All children can learn in a caring and nurturing environment;</li> <li>4. Education must develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual growth of the student;</li> <li>5. Education should be student-centered, balanced, integrated, process oriented, and interactive;</li> <li>6. Education must be publicly accountable and should involve multiple partnerships within each community;</li> <li>7. Quality education depends on effective board governance, fiscal responsibility, recruitment and retention of the best possible staff;</li> <li>8. Effective decision-making requires cooperation, open communication, and respect for each other’s opinions;</li> <li>9. Decision-making must be premised on what is in the best interest of the education of the children.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Common Essential Understandings</i> are our fundamental educational beliefs and values that provide a foundation for the mission and intended outcomes, and through which educational decision-making is filtered.</p>
<p><b>KEY INTENDED OUTCOMES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students have access to a continuum of programming appropriate to needs.</li> <li>2. Recruit and retain dedicated and qualified staff.</li> <li>3. Funding is maximized for staff development and program development and delivery.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Intended outcomes</i> are derived from the mission statement and lay the groundwork for the determination of priorities and related scope of activities of the Council and its staff (journey).</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Parents/guardians are welcome and active participants in their child's education.</li> <li>5. Enhance partnerships for the benefit of students.</li> <li>6. Provide a safe and healthy educational environment.</li> <li>7. Enhance internal and external communications.</li> <li>8. Funding is commensurate with program needs.</li> </ol>	
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In fulfilling its mandate for kindergarten through grade twelve education in the South Slave, the Council is guided by applicable legislation and its philosophy of education. Flowing from the Council's *mission, vision, common essential understandings, and key intended outcomes* are the Council's *key priorities* (Policy AE) *and workplans*, the DEAs/schools' *community education plans* (Policy AEA), and individual staffs' *growth plans*.

- *Regional Priorities and Workplans* and *Community (School) Education Plans* are developed and updated by staff in consultation with our partners in education. They include goals, strategic objectives, and workplans defining who (responsibility), will do what (specific actions), by when (timeline), at what cost, and to what end (expected outcomes). As school and regional priority development and implementation are considerable undertakings, the Council recognizes that improvement efforts such as these must be committed to and sustained for at least 5 years to make significant change.
- *Growth Plans* are developed by each staff member annually, in consideration of identified areas needing improvement as well as the school and regional priorities, subject to the approval of their immediate supervisors.

Reference: *Education Act* s. 22, 25, 33, 45, 69, 117.  
*Education Act*, South Slave Divisional Education Council Regulations s. 5  
*The NWT School Improvement and Reporting Directive and Framework*

Date: June 2005  
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