



13 Practical Insights to Individualize #sd8abed Student Supports

1. Know who your Ab Ed students are. If you don't know, ask your school's Ab Ed support person.
2. Reach out to those students and consciously build a relationship.
3. Reach out to their families and offer liaison between the classroom and home.
4. Consider outside support such as Elders, community agencies, district team, or counsellors. If the student is status, consider Band supports.
5. Tap into the student's interests. Are they interested in gardening, electronics, dirt biking, parkour, or skateboarding? Connect with the student through those interests and build supports.
6. Connect students to potential role models. Consider their family members, the SD 8 role model posters, SD8ABED team, Indigenous leaders, athletes, actors, authors, and musicians.
7. Support teaching staff in being creative with pedagogical delivery. Support delivery methods such as an inquiry project attached to student interest, writing assignments attached to student interest, hands-on learning and/or land-based learning alternatives.
8. Be explicit when supporting Ab Ed students to include First People's Principles of Learning. For example: 'Learning involves patience and time.' As supporters, reflect on your own limitations of patience as well the student's limitations of patience. Take time.
9. Recognize implicit bias. Recognize we have all been "rained on" with racist perspectives and history. Know that you have the choice to change this: reinforce these beliefs or change.
10. Create time to highlight the learning of Indigenous students! Celebrate, and make the learning visible through hallway displays, bulletin boards, online media and school newsletters.
11. Recognize the diversity of Aboriginal identity in terms of interests, cultural knowledge, and family knowledge. For example, not every Aboriginal student wants to or is ready to connect with culture/identity. Don't assume.
12. Consider yourself to be an equity leader and change maker! Persist.
13. Be courageous. Be willing to make mistakes and mend these. Play to your strengths.