

# Aboriginal Education Graduation Guide

A guide for grade 12 Aboriginal students in  
School District 8: Kootenay Lake



# Aboriginal Education

We acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District 8.

## Aboriginal Education.. Did you know?

There are just under 1000 students who self-identify as having Aboriginal heritage here in SD8 Kootenay Lake School District - from Kaslo, to Creston, to Crawford Bay, to the Slocan Valley, Nelson and Salmo!

Aboriginal heritage means a student has First Nations (Status or Non-status), Metis, or Inuit ancestry.

Additional supports are available for Aboriginal students to help guide pathways to graduation!

# Supports in Your Grade 12 Year

Transitions – Explore courses and experiences in school that will help build your future path.

Academic support – Access academic support. Talk to your teachers or Aboriginal Education staff about specific supports designed for and with you!

Enhancement programs – Sports, music, clubs, and Aboriginal Education are all programs that add quality to your grade 12 year.



# Supports in Your Grade 12 Year

Equity – If you need assistance getting help in your life, talk to your Aboriginal Education staff.

Study skills– Hone into healthy study skills to ensure academic success.

Self-advocacy – Take steps to figure out what you need and use your voice to advocate for yourself. If you need support, staff are available to help.

Time management – Learn strategies to use your time wisely to help create balance in your life.

Goal and vision setting – Set goals that help you feel confident and challenge you to be stronger.

Cultural connections – Building these connections with family and community will enhance your grade 12 experience. They will also help build your profile for scholarship applications, interviews, and future employment.

# Graduation Requirements

A minimum of **80 credits** are required to graduate in BC.

16 of the credits must be from Grade 12 courses, including an English Language Arts 12 course.

28 of the credits must be from elective courses.

Please use this checklist:



# Graduation Requirements

## Grade 10

- English Language Arts 10 (see choices)
- Math 10 (see choices)
- Science 10
- Social Studies 10
- Physical Health Education 10
- First Elective (see choices)
- Second Elective (see choices)

## Grade 11

- English Language Arts 11 (see choices)
- First Elective (see choices)
- Second Elective (see choices)
- Third Elective (see choices)

# Graduation Requirements

## Grade 10, 11, & 12

- ❑ Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 and/or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (see choices)
- ❑ Two Career Education Courses (CLC, CLE)

## Grade 11 & 12

- ❑ Math 11 or Math 12 (see choices)
- ❑ Science 11 or Science 12 (see choices)
- ❑ Social Studies 11 or Social Studies 12 (see choices)



# Graduation Requirements

## Grade 12

- English Language Arts 12 (see choices)
- First Elective (see choices)
- Second Elective (see choices)
- Third Elective (see choices)

## Graduation Program Assessments

- Numeracy 10
- Literacy 10
- Literacy 12



# Graduation Ceremony

Please confirm with your school as to when the School Graduation Ceremony happens. This ceremony honours your learning journey and all of the family, friend, school, and community supports that have walked with you!

The SD8—Kootenay Lake Aboriginal Education program hosts an annual Aboriginal Graduate Honour Ceremony during the Youth Pow Wow. All family and friends are invited to witness the ceremony which includes presentation of a gift to all Aboriginal Graduates and an honour dance.



# Beyond Grade 12

Your life beyond Grade 12 can take many directions: A trades program, University studies, college, upgrading, a gap year, travel, work, volunteerism. Dream big! Where do you want to be 5 years from now?

Graduation from Grade 12 is an important step toward your future.

You will learn more about opportunities beyond Grade 12 in different courses, conversations, and experiences.



# Beyond Grade 12

Post Secondary – Post Secondary education has many possible routes. Follow a career path in something that interests you and where your passions lie. Look into universities, colleges, trades programs. Talk to your family, teachers, and your school counsellor for information. Would you like to visit a local post-secondary program? Let us know and we can help make that happen!

Scholarships, bursaries – Applying for scholarships and bursaries will help with the financial aspects of post secondary education. There are so many options for scholarships, bursaries, and funding opportunities. Connect with school counsellors and Aboriginal Education staff to learn about these options.

Band Funding for Status First Nations – Some bands are also able to assist with post-secondary. It is important to be in touch with the Education contact at your specific band in early fall, to check into application deadlines.

# Contact

Please contact Aboriginal Education staff at your school for more information about Graduation Requirements.

As well, School District 8 - Kootenay Lake District Aboriginal Education Team

Web: [SD8 Kootenay Lake Aboriginal Education](#)

E-mail: [Gail Higginbottom](#), [Jesse Halton](#), [Hannah Lunn](#), [Danica Weager](#)

*To all the graduates and upcoming graduates of SD8 Kootenay Lake, Aboriginal Education -  
we are here to support you! We will walk with you on this challenging and inspiring journey!*