

## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to deliver effective environmental education, to model environmentally responsible practices, and to raise environmental awareness for all staff, students, trustees, and the community. The Board will consistently consider the impact, on the environment, of decisions that are made in the delivery of curriculum, and in the daily operations of the school board.

## **Rationale**

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is committed to environmental education, environmental action, and care of the environment. The Board recognizes that locally relevant and culturally appropriate environmental education not only increases students' environmental literacy but also contributes to higher academic achievement for all students. Engaging students with authentic, experiential environmental education will prepare them with the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and practices they need to be environmentally responsible citizens.

## **Definitions**

1. Environmental Education is education about the environment, for the environment, and in the environment that promotes an understanding of, rich and active experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of:
  - a) the earth's physical and biological systems;
  - b) the dependence of our social and economic systems on these natural systems;
  - c) the scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues;
  - d) the positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human-created and natural systems.
  
2. Environmental Literacy has five essential components:
  - a) General awareness of the relationship between the environment and human life;
  - b) Knowledge and understanding of human and natural systems and processes;

- c) Attitudes of appreciation and concern for the environment;
  - d) Problem solving and critical thinking skills;
  - e) Capacity for personal and collective action and civic participation.
3. Experiential Education is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills and clarify values ***in a non-biased manner.***

### **Guidelines**

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board will take on a leadership role in the following areas:

1. Teaching and Learning:
  - a) Placing environmental literacy within the content and methodology of instructional programs in all divisions.
  - b) Providing opportunities, resources and training for staff to learn, develop, and implement the cross-curricular nature of environmental concepts.
2. Student Engagement and Community Connections:
  - a) Supporting student, parent, community, and educator partnerships in developing classroom, school, and community environmental actions.
  - b) Retention and development of natural/green landscaping and wildlife habitats on Board property.
3. Environmental Leadership:
  - a) Ensuring that environmentally sound operational and purchasing practices are consistent with what students are learning in the classroom.
  - b) Facilitating appropriate waste management procedures (reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle), and conserving energy and water resources.