

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, a part of the Secwépemc Nation. We honour the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Secwépemc people, both past and present. We recognize their enduring presence and cultural heritage and commit to supporting reconciliation efforts and honoring their rights and traditions. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, learn, and grow on these lands.







### SUMMARY

Twin Rivers Educational Center or TREC is a type 3 Alternative Education School, meaning it supports vulnerable students facing challenges in the traditional school system, stating TREC " focuses on educational, social and emotional issues for students whose needs are not being met in a traditional school program"(Twin Rivers Education Centre,2022). TRECs programming provides differentiated instruction and specialized programs to accommodate its students. TREC is designed to support students from diverse backgrounds including indigenous students, those in poverty, and students with mental health concerns. TREC works in conjunction with community agencies that help provide breakfast, lunch and counseling to make sure all of the needs of their students are being met. Around 50 per cent of its students identify as indigenous; because of this TREC has put forth significant efforts towards reconciliation. In efforts of reconciliation TREC states "We work closely with our Aboriginal Education Workers, Aboriginal Family Counsellors and Consultants, to support all learners at TREC" (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2022). As well as reconciliation, TREC focuses on cultural awareness and equity to be an inclusive space for all. TREC believes that learning is rooted in both academic and social emotional development, this is why they have a blended school model, expansive extracurricular activities and external agencies. TRECs three main arguments revolve around the importance of alternate education for at-risk students, the role that community and indigenous supports play in student success and how academic and social-emotional learning can be developed through flexible, self paced learning with individualized support. This alternate education plan provides a holistic, student centred approach to education. This way TREC can prioritize inclusivity, well being along with academic success.

### SUMMARY Key Arguments

The importance of alternative education for at risk students.

The importance of community and indigenous supports to student success.

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The importance of academic and socialemotional growth through individual plans.



## PASSAGE #1

"We work closely with our Aboriginal Education Workers, Aboriginal Family Counsellors, and Consultants, to support all learners at TREC. We strive to provide opportunities for students and staff to participate in learning, workshops, and school and community events that further our understanding of the residential school experience and its legacy. We promote and engage learning around the process of reconciliation so our educators continue to grow and be more reflective in their practice when supporting all youth in their classrooms, as well as raising awareness in our student population of the impact of the government's historical policies towards Canadian Indigenous peoples." (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2022)

To me as a TC, this highlighted how TREC acknowledged and placed value on its high enrollment of indigenous students and the importance it places on these students being properly educated and cared for with an indigenized curriculum and support system for students. A major highlight in this passage was also the acknowledgement on the importance of the staff being constant learners and continually reflecting on their practice to be the best educators they can be for their students. We talk constantly in our program about how we are also learning along with our students so placing importance on the value of a teacher being a lifelong learning, as well as the students connected to me deeply. Finally, it highlighted the impact our government's policies had on indigenous people and raising awareness of this with our students so they can understand why

we need to engage in the process of reconciliation.

## PASSAGE #2

"Every student will be connected to at least one outside agency in order to provide the social, emotional and physical supports they need to achieve a healthy state of living to be able to attend to their learning, have confidence in their identity and develop a sense of belonging...In addition, our new School Achievement Coordinator for the upcoming school year will be focused on regulating mental health, anxiety and supporting students to be prepared to regulate for learning and improve peer relationships." (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2022)

TREC places an increased care on the wellbeing of their students not just physically, but mentally as well. Highlighting the importance of the entire support system that it takes to support a child who is struggling with mental health issues including connections to supports offered within the community. It also highlights how it increased its efforts to create greater parent engagement, personalized learning opportunities, and advocacy within the community with aboriginal partners. Focusing on the fact that the school is a child centred learning environment for all students.

# **INTERESTING WORDS**

#### **Myriad**

#### Allocation

**Definition:** a very great or indefinitely great number of persons or things.

The sky was filled with a myriad of stars, each one twinkling brightly against the dark night.

**Definition:** The process of distributing or assigning resources, responsibilities, or tasks to specific individuals, groups, or purposes.

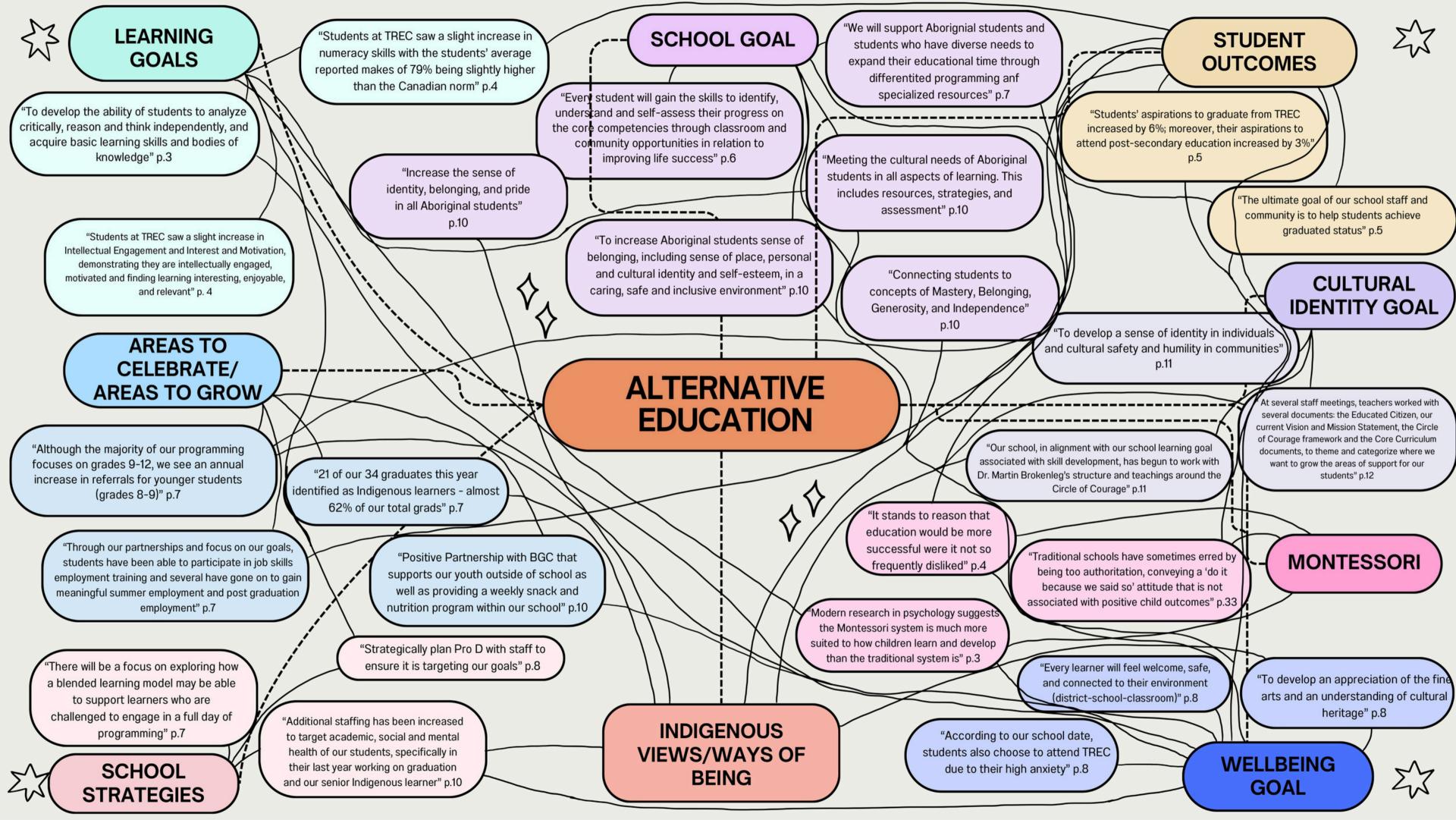
The allocation of funds for the new project was carefully planned to ensure every department received the resources they needed.



#### Humility

Definition: The quality or condition of being humble, which involves having a modest or low view of one's importance.

Despite her many accomplishments, she approached every challenge with humility, always willing to learn from others.



### **Unanswered Questions**

How does TREC support students who are transitioning back to public high school after their alternative education experience at TREC?

I could not find anything specific for how TREC supports students who are transitioning back into public high school. However, I do believe TREC is supporting students who decide to transition back into public high school and students who decide to continue their alternative education and graduate from TREC. After their experience at TREC, students are more likely to feel confident in their schoolwork and learning. Students at TREC have additional support and they participate in a self-paced learning style. This can help students raise their grades and therefore their confidence in their education. Students at TREC have also reported an increase in intellectual engagement, interest, and motivation. TREC supports students to emotionally be prepared for transitioning back into the public school system or graduating from TREC and entering the workforce.

#### How is social emotional learning implemented into the curriculum at TREC?

TREC follows the BC curriculum and offers the courses needed for graduation. On the TREC website, it lists all available courses for students as well as their electives they can take. Two out of the nine electives listed are called Child Development and Caregiving 12 and Interpersonal and Family Relationships 12. Students are able to focus on their social emotional learning within these courses. TREC's goals are to help their students feel welcome and safe. TREC's educators are big advocates in their students' lives and this helps students' wellbeing and social emotional learning. Indigenous views are very important to TREC to help their Indigenous students have a sense of belonging and gain confidence in their education. TREC supports their students by using a directed suspension approach. Instead of sending the students home, they attend morning classes and then participate in community service work for the rest of the school day. Suspended students also go to a counseling appointment to avoid further suspensions.

### ACTIVITY: FAMILY (FRIENDLY) FEUD

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## HOW IT WORKS:

Class will be divided into two groups. That group will then decide on a captain! The captains ONLY job is to start the first round, first question.

During each round, one player from each team will come up to the buzzer, and try to guess a correct answer on the answer board (each answer correctly guessed, counts for points). The host will read the question, and the first person to buzz will get the chance to answer. If they guess wrong, they will get an X and the opposing player at the buzzer will get a chance to answer, if he/she guesses one correct answer, they can PASS or PLAY for their team.

\*If a player buzzes and answers a correct answer on the board, but DOES NOT guess the number one answer, the opposing player at the buzzer will still get a chance to answer the top answer to let their team play.

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If they decide to PLAY, the rest of the team will get 3 chances to answer the rest of the possible answers on the answer board. If the team guesses wrong and gets three X's, the other team can STEAL. All the points that have been tallied up on the board will become theirs if they answer one of the remaining answers on the board.

If they PASS, they give the opposing team to answer all the possible answers on the board (this never happens).



Make sure various people from your team are answering! After 8 rounds (6 normal rounds with multiple answers, 2 bonus rounds with one answer), the team with the most points, wins!

### RULES!

NO shouting or helping teammates while they are at the buzzer.

NO player on your team can answer a question more than once.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

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NO player can stand at the buzzer table twice.

NO searching up answers. Laptops & phones must be closed.

### References

Home. Twin Rivers Education Centre. (n.d.). https://twinrivers.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx

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