

## WHAT MATTERS MOST

Education is a shared responsibility, and Schools cannot improve outcomes alone.

NCN plays a critical role in:

### 1. Supporting Attendance

- Ensuring children attend school regularly
- Reinforcing that education is a priority

### 2. Strengthening Expectations.

Supporting consistent messages about:

- Learning
- Effort
- Responsibility

### 3. Engaging with Schools.

Participating in:

- Meetings
- Events
- Feedback opportunities

### 4. Supporting Language & Culture.

Using language at home and encouraging participation in cultural activities

### 5. Working Together.

Collaboration between:

- Families
- Schools
- Leadership
- Community services

*“Mamawe Hopikihwasotan  
Let’s raise our children  
together”  
is not just a vision  
it must be lived in practice.*

## What Happens Next

Step 1: Build the Foundation (Year 1)

- Create a 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Improve attendance systems
- Set clear expectations for teaching and learning

Step 2: Align the System (Year 2)

- Strengthen instruction
- Better coordinate student supports
- Improve communication across programs

Step 3: Sustain & Improve (Year 3)

- Track progress
- Adjust where needed
- Build long-term success

## Overall Assessment

NNCEA & NCN have strong people, a strong culture, and a strong intent. With better alignment and community partnership, NNCEA can:

- Improve student success
- Strengthen identity and language
- Build a better future for youth

*Real change will come from  
working together – schools,  
families, leadership, and  
community – as one system.*



*Nisichawayasi Nehetho  
Culture and Education Authority Inc.*

NISICHAWAYASIHK CREE NATION

## NNCEA PROGRAM EVALUATION

**Executive Community Briefing  
May 2026**

NNCEA commissioned this evaluation during the 2025-26 school year to assess how well its education system is supporting student success, cultural integrity, and alignment with community priorities.

It was conducted to gather input from students, staff, families, and partners, and to identify practical actions to strengthen outcomes, coordination, and long-term planning.

A full version of the Evaluation will be available at NNCEA’s website.

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**Since the last evaluation (2017-18), NNCEA has made significant progress and achievements in the following areas:**

- Stronger Foundations
- Increased teacher stability and retention
- Improved financial transparency and reporting
- Expanded HR and administrative capacity
- Cultural Growth
- More land-based learning and cultural programming
- Greater visibility of culture in schools
- Steps taken to better integrate Elders into the system

**What is working well:**

- Strong commitment to Nîhitho language, culture, and identity
- Stable and dedicated leadership, teachers, and staff
- Expanded cultural and land-based programming
- Improved administration and financial management
- Strong leadership from the Director of Education
- Active and engaged Board of Trustees
- New steps toward language revitalization planning

**Key Gaps Requiring Attention**

While progress is clear, several important challenges remain:

**1. Student Attendance (Top Priority).**

Many students are not attending school regularly.

This directly impacts:

- Learning
- Graduation
- Future opportunities

**2. Student Achievement.**

- Gaps in literacy and numeracy
- Students sometimes move forward without mastering the basics

**3. System Coordination.**

Programs often work in isolation.

Limited integration between:

- Schools
- Student supports
- Community services

**4. Language Revitalization.**

Strong cultural presence, but:

- Limited structured language learning
- No clear progress tracking
- Inconsistent classroom delivery

**5. Data & Accountability.**

Systems like PowerSchool are underused.

Limited ability to:

- Track student progress
- Make informed decisions

**6. Parent & Community Engagement.**

Need stronger, consistent involvement of:

- Parents
- Caregivers
- Community members

**The biggest gaps are not about effort; they are about consistency, coordination, and shared responsibility.**

**Where we need to go next:**

- ⇒ Move from many good programs to one strong, connected system
- ⇒ Focus on student success, attendance, and learning outcomes
- ⇒ Build a clear long-term plan (5-Year Strategic Plan) to guide everything

***The system is strong in intention and effort, but needs better alignment, consistency, and shared accountability to fully support students.***