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Information about the FNESC/FNSA/SET-BC Project for British Columbia families of children with disabilities 2008/2009

What is the FNESC/FNSA/SET-BC Project?

- FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee), and FNSA (First Nations School Association), and SET-BC (Special Education Technology - British Columbia) have collaborated to provide technology support for students with disabilities in federally-funded band schools in British Columbia.
- SET-BC has provided this service for provincially-funded schools for some time, and the FNESC-FNSA-SET-BC partnership takes advantage of SET-BC's infrastructure and resources to support students with disabilities in First Nations' schools.

What is FNESC?

- FNESC is an independent society that is committed to improving education for all First Nations learners in British Columbia. FNESC is led by representatives of First Nations across the province. Further information about FNESC can be found at www.fnesc.ca

What is FNSA?

- FNSA is a non-partisan organization committed to promoting First Nations control of education and to improving and supporting the development of quality and culturally appropriate education for First Nations students. Further information about FNSA can be found at www.fnsa.ca

What is SET-BC?

- SET-BC is a provincially-funded education program that loans technology and provides technical support, training and resources to meet the educational needs of students with

disabilities in British Columbia. Further information about SET-BC can be found at www.setbc.org

Is my child eligible to receive service from this project?

- Federally-funded First Nations schools can request services through this project for their students who have disabilities in the following categories: physically dependent, deaf/blind, physically disabled, chronic health impairment, visually impaired and autism.

What if I feel my child would benefit from assistive technology?

- Your child's support team at their First Nations band school is the first place to go. If you feel your child would benefit from assistive technology, the school based team will look for available services.

How do school districts request service from the project for my child?

School district established procedures for selecting students:

- Students with assistive technology needs are identified in the classroom.
- A teacher, administrator or school-based team (which may include a parent) completes and submits to the screening committee the **District Screening Checklist** which helps determine the student's eligibility, strengths and needs.

What happens when my child is selected for the project?

Collaborative Action Plan:

- If your child is chosen by the district to receive services from this project, the school-based team will be asked to complete a **Request for Service form**.
- The school team then takes part in developing a **Collaborative Action Plan** with the SET-BC consultant. The consultant will assist the team to determine what strategies and technology best meet the needs of the student.
- The SET-BC consultant makes the technology request. The technology is ordered, configured and shipped to the school.

What is the school district \ SET-BC partnership on technology?

School district partnership on hardware:

- the basic computer or voice output communication aid (VOCA) is supplied by the FNEESC/FNSA/SET-BC project. It is the school district's responsibility to arrange for printer access, networking capabilities and/or Internet

School district partnership on software:

- The FNEESC/FNSA/SET-BC project supplies the basic hardware with the system software. In some cases, a word-processor such as iWork may come bundled with the original system and will be on the computer. The FNEESC/FNSA/SET-BC project also provides specialized access software such as screen enlargement, Braille translation, or word-prediction. Normally the access software is requested as part of the original CAP. The school district is responsible for supplying any regular software such as virus protection, word-processor, math programs, educational games, etc.

Who looks after repairs and maintenance of this equipment?

- The project consultant assists with training related issues on the SET-BC software or hardware.
- Maintenance or repair issues with SET-BC technology are addressed by the **SET-BC Support Desk** at 1-866-738-3375, or email support@setbc.org. In the Lower Mainland call 604-269-2222.

How will my child's school team be trained on the use of the technology?

Training – This project offers a wide range of training activities on the educational use of assistive technologies.

- When a student is provided with an equipment loan, the student's school based team receives training on the implementation of the technology in the classroom. This type of training is usually arranged at CAP meetings, or during the follow-up contact to monitor the student's progress.
- School staff can also attend SET-BC workshops on a wide range of topics, such as Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) issues, alternate access, or vision technologies. The person designated as the school's contact person will be advised of these opportunities as they arise.
- The Learning Centre on the SET-BC website <http://www.setbc.org/setbc/default.html> contains on-line presentations and tutorials, downloadable lesson plans, product guides and software demonstrations.

May my child use the technology at home?

Use of technology in the home and community settings:

- The technology on loan to the school district is not insured by the FNEESC, FNSA or SET-BC. Upon delivery of the technology, the school administrator signs a loan form accepting responsibility for the system. It is up to the school district and the school administrator to make the decision to allow the system to go home. It is important to have a technology security plan in place at school and at home.