

ETHICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

British Columbia School Superintendents Association

An Overview

The British Columbia School Superintendents Association has placed a high priority on ethics education over the past five years. In ascribing to our eighth Dimension of Practice, *Values and Ethics of Leadership*, we expect BCSSA members to be "able to understand and model appropriate value systems, ethics and moral leadership."

We are seeking, therefore, an ethical culture within our education system that seeks and develops principled leadership. To that end we need to build an ethically fit leadership cohort in public education that will assist our school boards, principals, teachers and students. All that we do in this regard ultimately affects the development, achievements and lives of our students.

The BCSSA will foster and support school districts as they work to build capacity for ethical reasoning and decision-making within their educational communities and classrooms. While the process and content provided by the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE) provides a foundation for this initiative, it is understood that each district will have unique needs and resources to bring to the adaptation and implementation of the concepts. To that end, the BCSSA's role will be one of ongoing liaison, communication and coordination, along with sponsoring the development of a provincial cadre of facilitators accredited to support planning and training within the districts.

Participating districts will determine their own needs and develop an implementation plan. This plan may include:

- structured opportunities for those having participated in ethical decision-making seminars to meet and interact regarding the application of ideas to their daily work within the district;
- the identification of individuals within the system who are committed to expanding awareness of the concepts and generating interest to broaden or deepen local involvement;
- a process of professional development programs and activities, including follow-up to increase awareness and engagement within the system;
- a consideration of long-term outcomes at the district, school and community level (i.e., senior staff, parent councils, school planning, curricular links for students); and
- a willingness to participate in a provincial network of engaged districts in order to share ideas, successes and emerging needs.

Based on the advice and experiences of the involved districts and available funding, the BCSSA will consider the possibility of expanding this initiative in the future.