



# Additional Qualification Course Guideline Native Languages: Oji-Cree, Specialist

Schedule D – Teachers' Qualifications Regulation

February 2025



Cette publication est également disponible en français sous le titre de *Langues autochtones : Oji-cri, spécialiste*.

The title of this Additional Qualification, as it appears in O. Reg. 176/10: *Teachers' Qualifications Regulation*, is *Native Languages*. Throughout this document, the course will be titled *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist*.

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## **Preface**

Additional Qualification (AQ) course guidelines are designed following extensive consultation and feedback from course providers, course writers and members of the teaching profession.

AQ course guidelines serve as the framework for providers and instructors to develop courses.

AQ course guidelines are organized in the following two sections:

### **Section A: Additional Qualification Course Foundations**

This section outlines the fundamental contexts that are embedded in the content of the AQ course. Education in Ontario embodies these to support educator and learner well-being. These fundamental contexts are essential to foster safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments for all learners and educators.

### **Section B: Additional Qualification Course Design**

This section identifies the core concepts and related elements that are accreditation requirements for all AQ courses. This section also outlines specific content that allows educators to gain in-depth knowledge and skills related to the AQ course.

In this document, all references to candidates are to educators enrolled in the AQ course. References to learners indicate those enrolled in school programs.

## Introduction

The Ontario College of Teachers (the College) is the self-regulating body for the teaching profession in Ontario and is responsible for:

- establishing and enforcing professional standards and ethical standards applicable to members of the College
- providing for the ongoing education of members of the College
- accrediting Additional Qualification (AQ) courses.

The College supports teaching excellence by preparing educators to work in varied and diverse educational contexts and geographical settings:

- English language public school
- French language public school
- English language Catholic school
- French language Catholic school
- First Nations school
- Provincial and Demonstration school
- Private school
- Independent school
- Urban setting
- Rural setting
- Remote setting.

This AQ course guideline provides a framework upon which to develop courses that meet accreditation requirements established in Regulation.

## Section A: Additional Qualification Course Foundations

Placing each student's interests and well-being first is at the core of teaching in Ontario.

### Professional Learning in Ontario

Professional learning is an integral part of the teaching profession. Educators participate in ongoing professional learning with the goal of improving outcomes for Ontario learners.

Educators complete a four-semester, pre-service teacher education program to become qualified to teach in Ontario. Throughout their career, they continue to engage in professional learning offered in various formats such as sessions offered by Ministry of Education, School Board or community partners, professional reading and Additional Qualification (AQ) courses.

The AQ Course *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist* reflects **adult learning theories and processes** that foster critical reflection, dialogue and inquiry. Instructors provide candidates with professional learning experiences related to teaching, learning and assessment of learners.

AQ courses are designed by educators to inform and enhance professional practice. These courses allow educators to deepen their knowledge and skills in design and delivery of specific programs. They also support professional practice by preparing educators for specific roles within the educational community.

### Professional Learning Framework for the Teaching Profession

The *Professional Learning Framework for the Teaching Profession* describes opportunities and processes that support ongoing professional learning for educators. AQ courses offer an opportunity for educators to inform and advance their professional knowledge, skills, practices and values.

## Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession



## Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession



Standards based resources can be found on the [College web site](#).

## Ontario's Learning Context

Ontario educators recognize that learning is influenced by the individual student's strengths, needs, interests, lived experiences and identities. Education in Ontario is complex and dynamic. Ontario's schools are learning communities that reflect the province's diversity. The *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Education Act* serve as the foundation for equitable, inclusive and accessible education.

The teaching profession in Ontario continues to evolve in response to the current and everchanging diversity of learners. Thus, educators are called upon to follow foundational principles that inform instructional practice. Through ongoing professional learning, educators deepen their understanding of the principles outlined below. In so doing, Ontario educators enhance their professional practice to support each student's learning and well-being.

### **Anti-Oppression Foundation**

An anti-oppression foundation is an approach that supports ensuring that equity and human rights are foundational to all Additional Qualification (AQ) courses and programs available to Ontario educators. An anti-oppression foundation acknowledges that systemic manifestations of power and privilege have led to multiple forms of oppression, injustices, inequities and inequalities. Ongoing teacher education must recognize and address historical contexts which have contributed to various forms of oppression. An anti-oppression foundation recognizes that educator and student learning and well-being are impacted by biases and assumptions related to power and privilege. Educators have a shared ethical and professional responsibility to identify and challenge individual and systemic barriers to support the learning, well-being and inclusion of each learner.

### **Indigenous Histories, Cultures, Perspectives, and Knowledge Systems in Education**

Ontario's educators are responsible to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and align their professional practice with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). They engage in authentic reconciliatory action by learning from and valuing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, perspectives and knowledge systems, in teaching and learning. Educators, as treaty partners, acknowledge that learning about, and upholding, treaty responsibilities will guide them on the reconciliation journey.

### **Aménagement Linguistique Policy (PAL)**

Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the French or English linguistic minority populations of a province the right to instruction in their own language.

In Ontario, the *Aménagement Linguistique Policy* (PAL) outlines the unique mandate of French-Language schools. Educators act as ambassadors and model the French language and francophone culture for learners. Educators deepen their understanding of learners' linguistic and cultural francophone identity. They collectively develop a provincial, national and international sense of belonging to *la Francophonie*.

## Learning for All

Educators believe that each student can learn. Educators provide programs and services that respond to each learner's unique strengths and needs. Evidence-based teaching and learning practices that are learner-centred provide equitable opportunities for all. Inclusive learning environments respect the identities of each learner and support their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.

## Accessibility for All

Accessibility for all is informed by the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. Accessibility, inclusion and equity are fundamental to everyday practice for teaching and learning. Educators advocate for each learner to access and benefit from services and resources within the education system, understanding the unique needs presented by geographical and socioeconomic contexts. Educators design opportunities for each learner to showcase their abilities and fully participate in their learning. The implementation of adaptive strategies, such as assistive technology, accessible content and inclusive design for teaching and learning respects the strengths and needs of each learner.

## Special Education

Each learner has their own unique profile. Under the *Education Act*, a learner may be identified by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) as having behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) must be developed by an interdisciplinary team to reflect the learner's strengths, needs, and abilities, according to Reg. 181/98. As educators are responsible for instruction, assessment and evaluation of all learners, they provide accommodations, modifications, or alternative programming outlined in the IEP.

## Accreditation – Program of Additional Qualification

Accreditation requirements for Additional Qualification (AQ) courses are articulated in O. Reg. 347/02: *Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*, s. 24.

*A program of additional qualification may be granted accreditation under this Regulation if the following requirements are satisfied:*

1. The program content and expected achievement of persons enrolled in the program match the skills and knowledge reflected in the College's "Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession" and the "Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession" and in the program guidelines issued by the College.
2. The program satisfies the requirements of the teachers' qualifications regulation for entry of an additional qualification on the general certificate of qualification and registration of a person who successfully completes the program.
3. The program curriculum is current, references the Ontario curriculum, relevant legislation and government policies and represents a wide knowledge base in the program's area of study.
4. The course content of the program makes appropriate provision for the application of theory in practice.
5. The program's format and structure are appropriate for the course content of the program
  - 5.1 The program consists of a minimum of 125 hours of work acceptable to the Registrar
6. There is clear identification of the goals of the program, with a formal testing or assessment mechanism to determine the level of successful completion of the program.
7. The majority of the educators teaching the program have Ontario teaching experience relevant to the program.
8. The provider maintains adequate internal controls to preserve the integrity of student records relating to the program.
9. The provider is committed to continuous improvement and quality assurance of the program and, if the program is an existing program, has implemented measures demonstrating that commitment. O. Reg. 347/02, s. 24; 2009, c. 33, Sched. 13, s. 3 (2); O. Reg. 182/10, s. 8.

## Section B: Additional Qualification Course Design

Additional Qualifications (AQs) for educators are identified in O. Reg. 176/10: *Teachers' Qualifications Regulation*. This regulation includes courses that lead to AQs, the Principal's Development Qualification, the Principal's Qualifications, the Primary Division, the Junior Division, the Intermediate Division, the Senior Division, the Supervisory Officer's Development Qualification and the Supervisory Officer's Qualifications. A session of a course leading to an AQ shall consist of a minimum of 125 hours as approved by the Registrar. Successful completion of the course is recorded on the candidate's Certificate of Qualification and Registration.

### **Additional Qualification – Schedule D, Part I/Part II/Specialist (Three Session)**

Schedule D (see Appendix 1), three-session specialist Additional Qualification courses, allow educators to:

- enhance subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills as outlined in the *Teaching Oji-Cree, Part I* course
- extend subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills in the design and implementation of learning opportunities as outlined in the *Teaching Oji-Cree, Part II* course
- apply the subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills in a leadership role as outlined in the *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist* course.

### **Additional Qualification Course Requirements**

The AQ course *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist* enables candidates to advance their professional practice through focussed learning in the following areas:

- Curriculum Knowledge
- Pedagogical Strategies
- The Learning Environment.

This AQ course is designed and delivered using adult learning instructional practices.

The purpose of this AQ course is to enhance pedagogical practice related to teaching Anishiniimowin (Oji-Cree). This includes:

- understanding the critical relationship between local lands, culture, and language transmission
- understanding that Anishinaabe worldview is the foundation to Anishiniimowin maintenance and revitalization
- Anishiniimowin language instruction through a revitalization perspective
- theories of teaching Anishiniimowin
- traditional and cultural knowledge that guide Anishiniimowin planning, development, assessment and evaluation
- leadership and collaboration with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Knowledge Guardians, and communities.

*Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist* applies the subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills in a leadership role in the following required elements:

### **Anti-Oppression Foundation**

- theories and pedagogies about multiple forms of oppression applied to the design, assessment and implementation of programs and practices
- addressing individual and systemic biases, discrimination and barriers as well as manifestations of power and privilege
- addressing disproportionate representation of learners from equity seeking groups within specialized programs
- structures, policies, programs and resources to identify biases, assumptions, beliefs and barriers to acquiring local language and challenges to intergenerational transmission of Anishiniimowin
- impacts of power, colonialism, inequality, and local histories, and how these continue to shape language acquisition and culture in the present day
- trauma-informed environments and the effects of trauma on learner revitalization and maintenance of Anishiniimowin
- fundamental understanding that language is not designed to offend anyone: it is thousands of years old, and is informed by location and an Anishinaabe way of knowing, seeing, doing and being (for example, ideas are animate and inanimate)
- recognition that Anishinaabe worldview takes a non-hierarchical approach to presenting different roles and responsibilities for community members
  - mindfulness that each community has a different understandings of Anishinaabe worldview
- familiarity with how each community refers to their language (for example, Oji-cree, Severn Ojibwe, Anishiniimowin, Ininiimowin) and the histories associated with the names.

### **The Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession and The Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession**

- significance of the Ethical Standards and the Standards of Practice as theoretical foundations within *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist*
- ethical professional identity, knowledge, leadership, advocacy and collective practices to inform program planning
- opportunities for candidates to learn and use existing Anishinaabe ethics and protocol (Seven Grandfather Teachings, community roles, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians).

### **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, perspectives and knowledge systems**

- meaningful inclusion of Anishinaabe histories, perspectives and knowledge systems in teaching and learning processes
- knowledge of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (TRC)
- awareness of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP)
- understanding that Anishiniimowin (the Oji-cree language) is living, and in the traditional territory, every place has a name, history and origin tied to it:
  - Anishiniimowin reflects local lands and areas and it will teach local history and the importance of these places
  - If traditional names are not used, history and ideas will be lost
- resources to foster understanding of present-day impacts of Residential Schools and other acts of colonialism on Anishiniimowin
- the role of ceremony, protocol and land in connection to Anishiniimowin
- introduction to the principle of *mino-bimaadiziwin* (living a good life/choosing a good path)
- recognition of Elders as the core of learning and that educators need to model their behaviour after them.

### **Current Ontario curriculum and related Ministry of Education policies, frameworks, guidelines, strategies and resources:**

- Ontario curriculum, policies, frameworks, strategies and resources related to *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist*
- policies, processes and practices that foster openness to innovation, culturally inclusive pedagogies and the democratization of knowledge
- safety related standards, guidelines and resources for land-based learning activities
- strategies to implement local land-based learning activities as sources of linguistic and cultural knowledge
- impact of government policies and frameworks that contributed to language loss and now impact language proficiency and acquisition for many Anishiniimowin speakers.

### **Current Ontario legislation and regulation:**

- relevant legislation (for example, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, *Canadian Human Rights Act*, Ontario Human Rights Code, Anti-Racism Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 15 and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) and policies at the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels that support human rights and privacy for all

- candidates' legal obligations and ethical responsibilities according to current provincial legislation, policies and practices
- promotion of Indigenous participation in revising regulations, policies, curriculum and frameworks
- impacts of legislation and regulation beyond provincial jurisdiction on Anishiniimowin (the Oji-cree language), including Treaty rights, Aboriginal rights, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Indian Act
- strategies to advance application of Indigenous peoples' governance structures and natural laws.

### **Learning for All**

- processes and program planning that provide equitable opportunities for each learner
- strategies that respond to the strengths, identities, needs and interests of each learner (for example, differentiated instruction, universal learning design and experiential learning)
- practices to understand learner's curiosities and experiences to empower them to reach their learning goals.

### **Accessibility for All**

- ethical responsibilities related to the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act S.O., 2005*
- advocacy for resources and services that respond to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and contextual needs of each learner
- adaptive strategies, assistive supports and technologies to facilitate learning and foster inclusion
- strategies to address ableism that exists in processes and practices.

### **Special Education**

- ethical responsibilities related to learner's Individual Education Plan (IEP), safety plan, and transition plan including privileging Indigenous voices and providing access to community resources (for example, Elders, community, family, teachers and councillors)
- programs, strategies and services that support the identified learner in achieving individual goals outlined in their respective plans
- interdisciplinary teams to support learning, advocacy and transitions
- recognition of Anishinaabe cultural approaches to exceptionalities and how they are often viewed as gifts.

### **Educational research**

- current research and literature associated with professional practices, policies and pedagogies related to *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist*
- research that reflects society's diverse changing nature and influence on learning and well-being
- theoretical foundation for the design, assessment and implementation of programs and practices in support of learning
- research related to land-based and traditional activity-based learning, and the connection to language revitalization and retention
- recognition of oral tradition to communicate knowledge as a way to share, learn, and speak the language (for example, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Knowledge Guardians and fluent speakers speak their wisdom through songs, legends and circle for listeners to interpret based on lived experience).

### **Application of theories of learning and teaching**

- theories and practices related to pedagogy and andragogy that support learning within an inclusive environment
- theoretical frameworks and fundamental principles underpinning *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist*
- theories of development and identity formation that support learner well-being, efficacy and agency
- learning theories to develop learner's profiles and identities
- importance of local knowledge, tradition and dialect to the teaching and learning of Anishinaabe ways of knowing, being, doing and seeing.
- use of local traditional Anishinaabe pedagogy.

### **Supports for learners**

- policies, processes, practices to support learners' cognitive, social, emotional and physical development
- strategies that lead learners to recognize and develop mental, emotional, physical and spiritual balance
- programs that respond to learners' lived experiences, identities, needs and well-being
- practices that respond to linguistic abilities of learners
- critical pedagogies and practices that support learners' well-being and efficacy
- trauma informed practices that recognize the past, present and future impacts of colonization on the lands now called Canada
- community services and programs to promote holistic healing.

## Teaching, assessing and evaluating

- program design and implementation that align with the principles and processes of Ontario curriculum and related policies
- culturally inclusive processes and practices to provide learning opportunities that respect the learning styles, voices and perspectives of each learner
- assessment and evaluation processes and practices to:
  - provide feedback to learners and adjust instruction (assessment *for* learning)
  - develop learners' capacity to be independent, autonomous learners (assessment *as* learning)
  - make informed professional judgments on demonstrated learning (assessment *of* learning)
- instructional strategies to emphasize the importance of inquiry-based learning and transferable skills
- land-based and traditional activity-based learning to promote learner engagement
- Anishinaabe assessment methods and related holistic approaches that address each learner's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs
- recognition of the whole learner, including community, Nation and environment, as foundation for assessment practices
- cross-curricular approach to language and literacy instruction (for example, language learning through engaging in everyday activities)
- authentic language learning practices that prioritize meaningful communication
- authentic application of Anishinaabemowin (for example, using language while giving instruction)
- strategies to preserve and pass knowledge, including songs, stories and activities.

## Pathway and transition planning

- processes and practices to support all transitions
- curriculum design using learners' career and life goals
- programs and learning opportunities for all pathways
- practices that develop the transferable skills to support lifelong learning
- relationship between lifelong learning and language learning
- language as a conduit for knowledges and histories that guide each learner's journeys and futures.

### **Safe, equitable and inclusive learning environments**

- policies and processes to create and maintain inclusive learning environments that respect diversity and encourage critical thinking (for example, gender neutral language and resources in various formats)
- inclusive learning environments that facilitate learning, foster learner agency and perspectives
- practices that support safe and healthy learning environments for learners as well as families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians
- environments that recognize individuals' gifts, roles and responsibilities that are supported by local Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Knowledge Guardians and community.

### **Teaching and learning through e-Learning principles**

- Integration of information and communication technology to enhance teaching and learning
- technological and communication resources to enhance professional knowledge in support of learning and agency
- ethical use of technology in support of learners' safety, privacy and well-being
- access to digital language tools, resources and accompanying support
- use of digital tools to document language
- role of digital tools in language revitalization as they are currently applied to increase the number of language speakers.

### **Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogical practices**

- culturally responsive and relevant practices that reflect understanding of learners' diverse identities and local cultural traditions
- culturally inclusive resources that support learning to foster engagement and well-being
- awareness of cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation
- understanding of Anishinaabe worldview that acknowledges the spirit in Anishiniimowin, and recognizes that language and traditions embody culture
- practices that position Anishiniimowin as a gift that must be preserved and protected
- impacts of location on each learner's linguistic and cultural identity which may vary from community to community and Nation to Nation
- localized understanding of territory, teachings, and knowledge systems
- pedagogical practices that support community needs (for example, plants, animals, medicines, food and shelter)
- strategies to promote authentic language use
- role of ceremony in learning, sharing and understanding Anishinaabe knowledges.

### **Social justice and democratic citizenship**

- policies related to democratic citizenship within local, national and global contexts
- processes and practices that foster learners' voice and choice, respect diversity and promote social justice
- strategies for consensus-building, participatory democracy and empowerment within schools and the community
- importance of fluent language speakers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians to language revitalization, maintenance, and promotion
- comparison of Anishinaabe and Eurocentric systems, knowledges, Natural Laws and governance structures.

### **Environmental sustainability**

- shared responsibility and partnership to foster ecological justice
- integration of environmentally sustainable policies, pedagogies and practices
- processes that engage learners as active global citizens in supporting environmental and economic sustainability
- importance of maintaining a healthy relationship with the natural environment (including land, water, animals and spirit) to the survival and sustainability of language and culture.

### **Shared responsibility for learning**

- processes and practices to foster communication and collaboration with learners, families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians, agencies and the school community to support learning
- role of the educator in building and maintaining relationships with community and community organizations
- partnerships with families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians that value shared decision-making, confidentiality, advocacy and leadership
- engagement with local community partners to incorporate outdoor experiences that foster life skills and sustainability practices by enabling learners to connect to the land for spiritual wellness.

### **Communities of professional learning**

- professional learning communities that promote critical pedagogy and collective efficacy
- research and leadership to advance professional practice through ongoing collaborative inquiry, dialogue and innovation
- strategies to collaborate with school personnel to understand and incorporate Anishiniimowin and culture throughout the school
- strategic networking with fluent speakers, Knowledge Keepers, Knowledge Guardians and language instructors
- responsive identification of learning community leaders who represent local communities and understand their needs.

### **Resources**

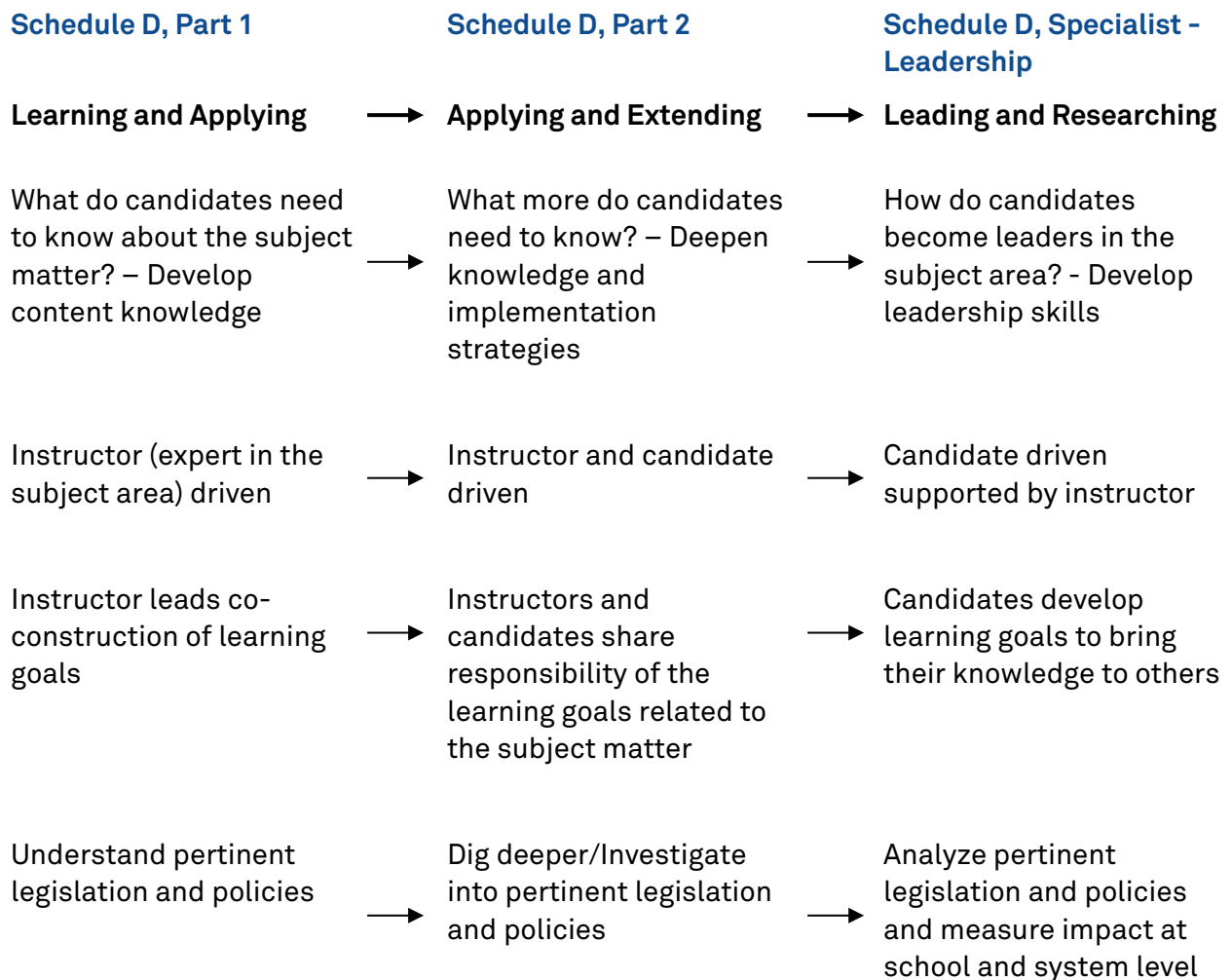
Resources to support the development of the AQ Course *Teaching Oji-Cree, Specialist* can be found on the [College](#) website and the [Ontario Ministry of Education](#) website.

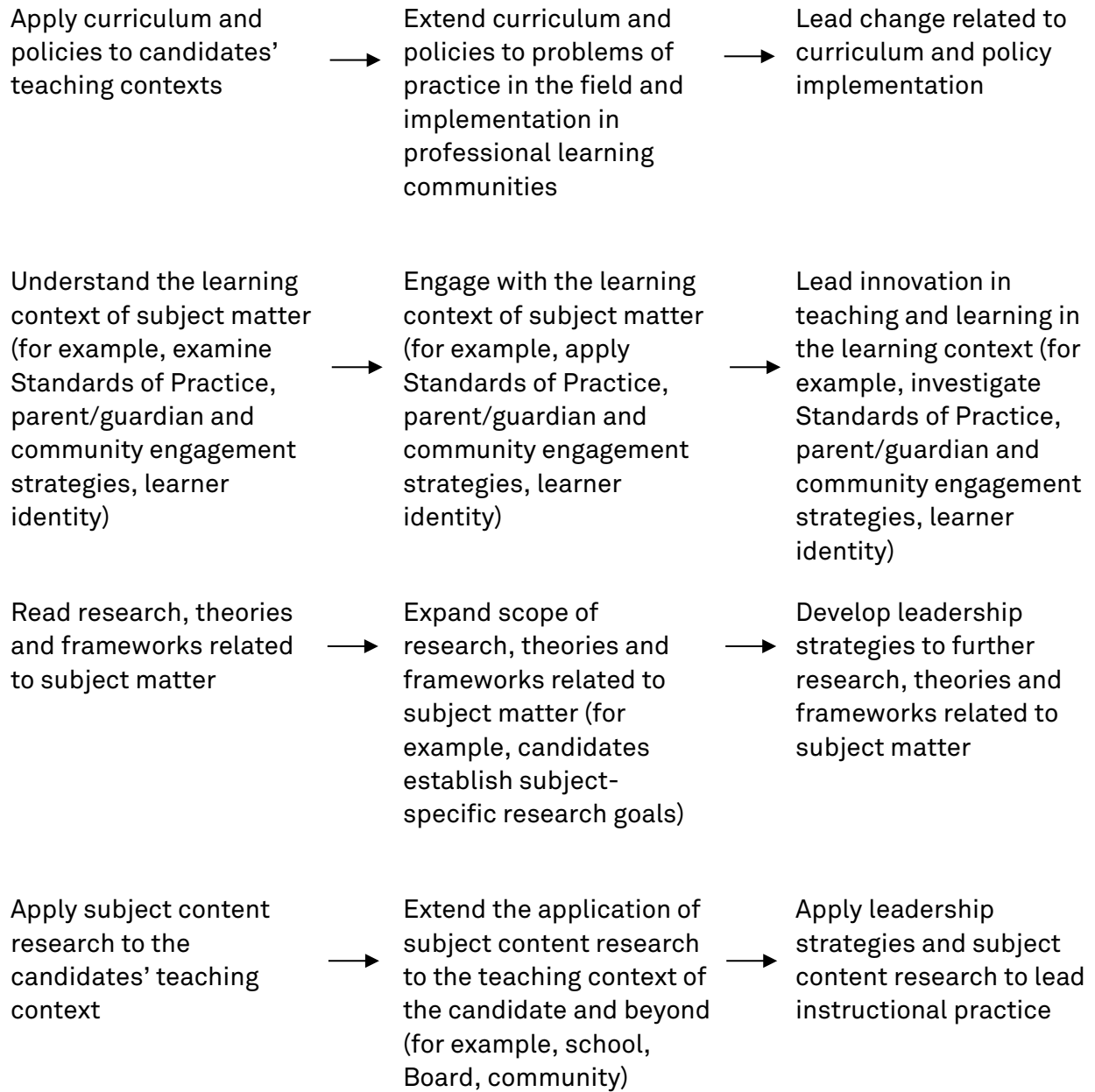
## Appendix 1

### Continuum Of Learning in Schedule D Additional Qualification (AQ) Courses

#### Considerations

- Consistency across the three Schedule D sessions to:
  - support the development and progression of knowledge, implementation and leadership
  - support candidates who take the sessions from different providers
- Candidates' professional experience and learning needs in relation to the required elements of the AQ course.





## **Continuum of Learning in Schedule D Additional Qualification (AQ) Courses**

*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Compliant Text:*

### **Schedule D, Part 1**

*This is the first level on a three-level continuum as outlined in the columns above.*

#### **Learning and Applying**

- What do candidates need to know about the subject matter? – Develop content knowledge
- Instructor (expert in the subject area) driven
- Instructor leads co-construction of learning goals
- Understand pertinent legislation and policies
- Apply curriculum and policies to candidates' teaching contexts
- Understand the learning context of subject matter (for example, examine Standards of Practice, parent/guardian and community engagement strategies, learner identity)
- Read research, theories and frameworks related to subject matter
- Apply subject content research to the candidates' teaching context.

### **Schedule D, Part 2**

*This is the second level on a three-level continuum as outlined in the columns above.*

#### **Applying and Extending**

- What more do candidates need to know? – Deepen knowledge and implementation strategies
- Instructor and candidate driven
- Instructors and candidates share responsibility of the learning goals related to the subject matter
- Dig deeper/Investigate into pertinent legislation and policies
- Extend curriculum and policies to problems of practice in the field and implementation in professional learning communities
- Engage with the learning context of subject matter (for example, apply Standards of Practice, parent/guardian and community engagement strategies, learner identity)
- Expand scope of research, theories and frameworks related to subject matter (for example, candidates establish subject-specific research goals)
- Extend the application of subject content research
- to the teaching context of the candidate and beyond (for example, school, Board, community).

## **Schedule D, Specialist – Leadership**

*This is the third level on a three-level continuum as outlined in the columns above.*

### **Leading and Researching**

- How do candidates become leaders in the subject area? - Develop leadership skills
- Candidate driven supported by instructor,
- Candidates develop learning goals to bring their knowledge to others
- Analyze pertinent legislation and policies and measure impact at school and system level
- Lead change related to curriculum and policy implementation
- Lead innovation in teaching and learning in the learning context (for example, investigate Standards of Practice, parent/guardian and community engagement strategies, learner identity)
- Develop leadership strategies to further research, theories and frameworks related to subject matter
- Apply leadership strategies and subject content research to lead instructional practice.



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For additional information:  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor Street West  
Toronto ON M5S 0A1

Telephone: 437.880.3000  
Toll-free (Canada and U.S.A.)  
1.833.966.5588  
Email: [info@oct.ca](mailto:info@oct.ca)  
[oct.ca](https://www.oct.ca)