



# Lower Sioux Indian Community Early Head Start and Head Start

P.O. Box 308 • 39375 County Highway 24 Suite A  
Morton, MN 56270

*Raising the Next Generation of Dakota Speakers*

## **Dakota Iapi Ecédaŋ Oape (Dakota Immersion Hour):**

May 29, 2025

Haŋ Mitakuyapi,

Our tribe's 10-Year Education Plan envisions the Çaŋsayapi Waŋaŋyeža Owayawa Oŋi will be full immersion by time our next school building opens in 2030. To begin, we have a short-term goal of being 50% immersion by 2026. **With this, we are planning to have our first hour of operation from 8:00-9:15 am be a whole-center complete Dakota Immersion hour for staff starting Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

In this Dakota language journey, kawitaya waŋaguŋk'iciyapte (together we are strengthening ourselves). We are starting first with the staff to help begin the process of switching to one language through-out a period of time to help identify words/phrases we do not know and to strengthen ourselves using the language we do know. This will be a trial-and-error period much like how an infant is trying to first walk. As we continue aŋpetu iyohi (every day), we will get stronger and stronger to stay in the language. **We do not require but invite families to support the immersion hour during this time by trying to speak Dakota only.** We have attached parent phrases you can say at drop-off and will have hanging throughout the classrooms and school to help talk about for example the child's night, if picking up early, and words you can say to them when saying tokŋta aŋe.

Our next goal starts with the new school year on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 during the same 8:00am-9:15 am, will be to have all staff and families speak Dakota only. With this first goal starting next Monday, please start thinking about words or phrases you say frequently during this drop-off time to help get these translated. You can let the teachers, family advocates, receptionist, or any CWOO staff know this phrase and we will get it translated for you. Another way is to email [Dakota@lowersioux.com](mailto:Dakota@lowersioux.com) to email our Dakota language teachers to get it translated.

To begin to burn the fire, we must kindle. Let's put our strengths together and start by making a safe environment to speak Dakota with everyone. To commemorate this time, we have art by Misty King attached here. We would like to host a coloring contest for all families and staff to color in the art (preferably using a maximum of 6 colors for printing purposes). **Please take a sheet, color it in, and bring to the reception by June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.** We will have policy council vote on their favorite design.

Pidamaya,

Tricia Baune

Director

## Measurements to **raise the next generation of Dakota language speakers**

<b>Priority 3: Build a Tribal Immersion School: 2023-2034</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Measures</b>
<i>3a) Strengthen CWOO capacity for full Dakota language immersion.</i>	<b>Strategy 1:</b> Strengthen capacity of CWOO's existing school for Birth to 5-year-olds.	<i>S1. CWOO Head Start will meet 50% immersion instruction by 2026. S1. CWOO Head Start will meet 100% immersion instruction by 2030.</i>
<i>3b) Expand CWOO to become a Birth-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Tribal School.</i>	<b>Strategy 1:</b> Prepare and plan to strengthen and build CWOO's capacity to become a tribal immersion school <b>Strategy 2:</b> Build credentials to become an independent tribal school. <b>Strategy 3:</b> Build a new school at Lower Sioux to accommodate Birth to 4 <sup>th</sup> grade. <b>Strategy 4:</b> Expand CWOO's teaching capacity to become a Birth - 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Tribal School.	<i>S1. Completion of Implementation Plan by 2025 and Policies &amp; Procedures by 2026. S2. CWOO will acquire an ISD # by 2026. S3. New school building is completed by 2029. S4. Adequate student enrollment in each grade is met annually from 2030-2034.</i>

- Staff Fluency
- Class vs. Center Immersion
- Parent/Home Fluency
- Community Focus Groups
- Enrichment Trips
- Dakota Child Development
- Dakota Milestones



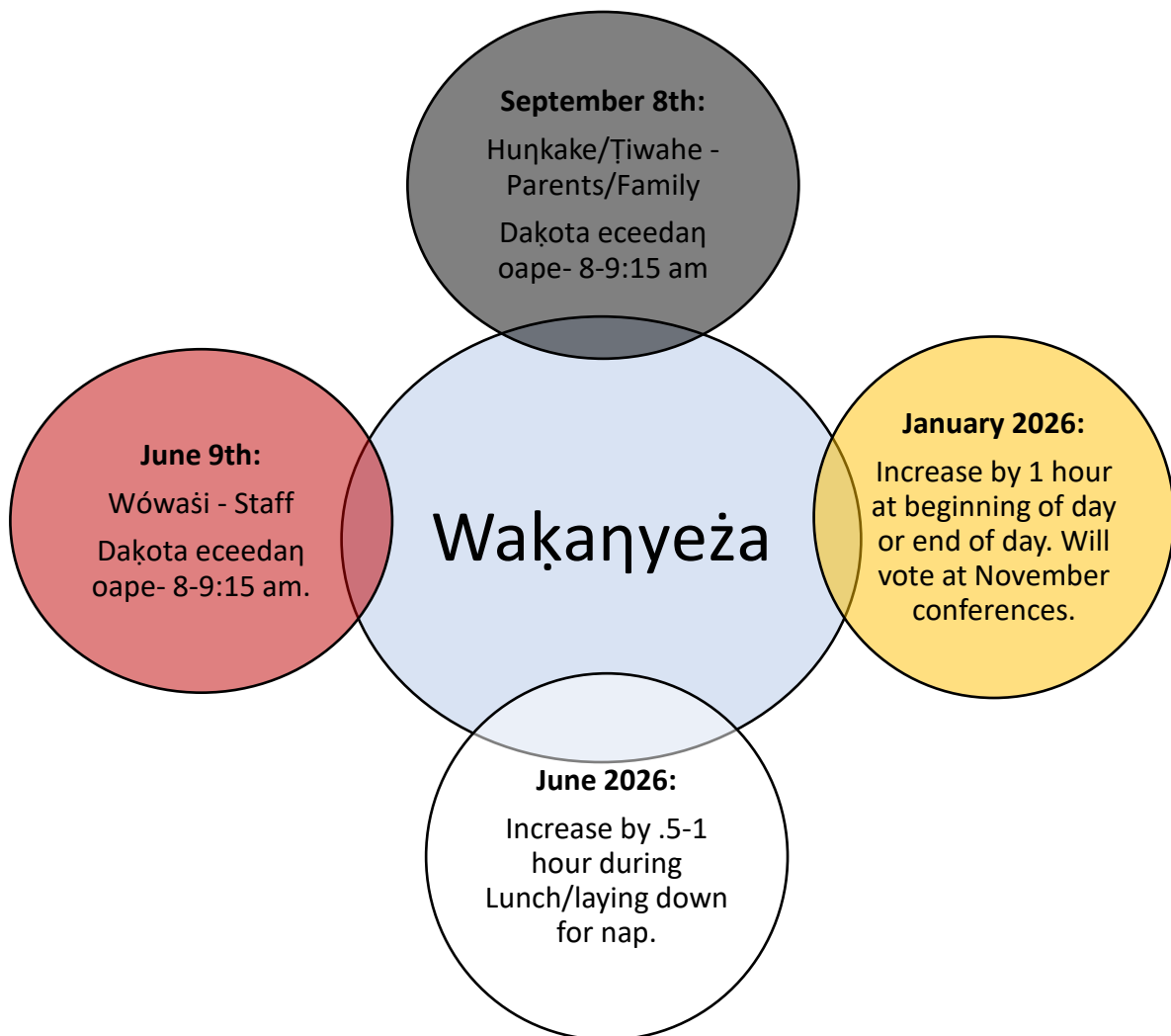
Çaŋşayapi Waķanyeża  
Owayawa Oŧi

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## Dakota Iapi Ecedaŋ 2025-2026:



## Dakota ecédaŋ itowapi: Dakota Immersion Picture

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