

Stay at Home, Stay in School – KiHS Pilot to Present:



KiHS at 25 — How a Northwestern Vision Grew with Technology, Community, and Time

In the 2025–2026 school year, **Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS)** celebrates **25 years** of delivering accredited secondary education to students in remote and isolated First Nation communities—without requiring them to leave home.

What began as a modest pilot focused on **Grades 9 and 10** has grown into a comprehensive **Grades 9–12 program**, supporting both youth and adult learners through innovative, community-based and technology-enabled education. Over a quarter century, KiHS has evolved steadily—expanding course offerings, strengthening student supports, and proving that high-quality secondary education can thrive in the North.

A careful beginning: helping students stay home longer

At its inception, KiHS was intentionally modest in scope. The earliest pilot offered **only Grade 9 and 10 courses**, with a clear and compassionate goal: **to allow students to remain in their home communities longer** before having to leave to complete their high school diploma elsewhere.

At the time, this was a significant step forward. Even delaying relocation by one or two years meant students could stay connected to family, language, land, and community during critical formative years.

The success of this early approach laid the foundation for what would come next.

Growing course by course, student by student

As confidence in the model grew, so did the program. KiHS **continually added higher-grade courses**, gradually building toward a complete Grades 9–12 pathway. Alongside academic expansion, the school introduced key mechanisms to better serve diverse learners, including:

- **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**, acknowledging learning gained through life experience, work, and community knowledge

- **Maturity credits** for students over the age of 18, creating renewed pathways for adult learners to complete their diploma

These additions reflected a deep understanding of northwestern realities: learning is not always linear, and students arrive with different experiences, responsibilities, and strengths.

A major milestone followed. In the **2006–2007 school year**, KiHS celebrated **its very first graduate**—a powerful moment that confirmed the vision was working.

Since that first diploma was awarded, **KiHS has graduated approximately 450+ students**, each one representing not just an academic achievement, but a story of persistence, support, and community-based success.

Technology grows up—alongside the learners

Over 25 years, KiHS has evolved in step with dramatic advances in technology:

- Internet connectivity improved from limited and unreliable access to more stable, higher-speed service capable of supporting real-time instruction.
- Classrooms transitioned from **desktop PCs** to **laptops, tablets, and mobile devices**, enabling greater flexibility and accessibility.
- Expanded Wi-Fi access strengthened learning environments within schools and community spaces.

These changes enhanced—not replaced—the core KiHS model: students learning together in a local classroom, supported by a qualified teacher, with technology expanding what is possible.

From online courses to integrated Grades 9–12 learning ecosystems

As digital education matured, KiHS adopted platforms such as **Moodle**, **Edsebli**, and similar systems to support a fully integrated **Grades 9–12 learning environment**, extending as well to **adult learners**.

- **Moodle** supports learning management—course materials, assignments, assessments, and grades.
- **Edsebli** serves as the **Student Information System (SIS)**—managing attendance, transcripts, schedules, and student records.

Together, these platforms connect instruction, assessment, and student information into a **single, unified, cloud-based system**, replacing siloed tools with seamless workflows. Attendance, grading, reporting, and records live in one place—improving accuracy, efficiency, and communication.

Secure portals strengthen connections between teachers, students, and families, while administrators gain clearer operational visibility across communities.

Supporting youth *and* adult learners through synchronous and hybrid delivery

As KiHS matured, its mandate expanded to fully include **adult learners**, recognizing that education is a lifelong journey.

Technology now supports **synchronous (“hybrid”) learning**, blending:

- real-time, teacher-led instruction
- structured classroom learning
- flexible online participation

This approach allows adult learners—often balancing work, family, and community responsibilities—to complete secondary credits while benefiting from direct teacher interaction and peer support.

Hybrid delivery increases flexibility without sacrificing connection.

Efficiency that supports people, not paperwork

One of the most meaningful outcomes of KiHS’s technological evolution is what it enables behind the scenes.

By centralizing learning management, assessment, attendance, and student information:

- teachers spend more time teaching and mentoring
- administrators make informed decisions using real-time data
- students experience smoother, more transparent pathways to graduation

Technology becomes infrastructure—supporting relationships, accountability, and student success.

A model built to last

Today, KiHS is a **Ministry-inspected Grades 9–12 school**, serving multiple First Nation communities and supporting both youth and adult learners. It remains grounded in the principles that guided its creation:

- community-based classrooms
- local, qualified teachers
- meaningful use of technology
- respect for culture, place, and belonging

What has changed is the scale, sophistication, and resilience of the systems supporting that vision.

Looking ahead, grounded in 25 years of experience

From early Grade 9–10 pilots to full diploma pathways, from desktop computers to integrated cloud-based systems, from the first graduate in 2006–2007 to **450+ graduates and counting**, KiHS has continually adapted—without losing sight of its purpose.

At 25 years, KiHS stands as a powerful example of how **Grades 9–12 education**, adult learning, and community-led innovation can work together to keep students connected to home, opportunity, and their future.

Stay at home. Stay connected. Stay in school.