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Assimilation, Educational Pedagogy, and the Implementation of the Anishnaabe
Immersion Program at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegemik

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This paper explores the history, development and implementation of the Anishnaabe Immersion program at Biidaaban Kinomaagegamik. The Immersion program is attempting to restore the Anishnaabe language to the people of Sagamok by reintroducing it in the school system. The idea of teaching this language in school presents many ideas and concepts that are covered in this paper. Only a couple of generations ago this same school system had an assimilative policy that aggressively forbid children from speaking Anishnaabe in the residential school system. The dichotomy of using a school system to teach a language when that same system had attempted to unteach the language in the recent past, sparks thought about the nature of assimilation and the history of forced conformity. This paper explores issues about the history and affect of the Residential School system and how it relates to the developing pedagogy employed at Biidaaban. The paper concludes taking a constructive look relating the pedagogy to the short term success of the Immersion program and the type of long term supports that need to be developed for the program's continued success.