



unesco

National Coordination
Associated Schools
Network

UNESCO Associated Schools Network

Guide for National Coordinators



1. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Launched in 1953, the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) is an international network that links together students, teachers and educational institutions across the world around a common goal: **“to build peaceful and sustainable societies in the minds of children and young people”**. The network includes over 12,000 ASPnet member schools in 182 countries that work together on international understanding, peace and human rights, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education.

ASPnet is recognized as an effective driver for reaching [Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Education 2030](#): *to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, and more specifically for target 4.7 on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

ASPnet also emphasizes the four pillars of education: learning to be, learning to know, learning to do, and above all, **learning to live together**.

In Canada, ASPnet counts over 130 schools in nine provinces and one territory. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) designates a National Coordinator, who provides tools, resources and guidance for the network.

2. COMMITMENTS

As candidate or member school, students and staff must uphold UNESCO’s values and principles and commit to certain requirements:

- a. Participation in at least **one global or regional ASPnet project**, conference, contest, or campaign proposed by, a member or candidate school, UNESCO or by the Provincial or National Coordinator, every school year.
- b. **Informing the school community** about the ASPnet membership (through staff, parent and student meetings; posters; school website, etc.). The **whole-school approach** is key.
- c. In Canada, schools are required to participate or engage in **minimum two (2) thematic projects** associated with four (4) thematic priorities:
 - i. Promoting UNESCO’s mission and values
 - ii. Global Citizenship Education (GCED)
 - iii. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
 - iv. Indigenous Education & Reconciliation
- d. **Celebration of at least two (2) United Nations days**, selected from the [ASPnet International days and weeks calendar](#), involving the entire school community, every school year.
- e. **External display** of ASPnet membership at the school, as provided by the National Coordinator (ex. ASPnet member flag, logo on school website, etc.) or developed by the school.
- f. **Updating information** on the [ASPnet directory](#) at least once a year (contact information, school statistics and activities).
- g. Submission of an [annual report](#) to the Provincial Coordinator, using the template provided.

3. MEMBERSHIP

ASPnet operates at international, national, and provincial levels. A team at UNESCO headquarters in Paris oversees the network's international coordination. The National Coordinator is designated by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and the Provincial Coordinators support the schools in their respective provinces more directly.

3.1. Eligibility

Membership to ASPnet is open to primary and secondary schools, and in some cases, technical schools. Priority is given to public schools and schools serving Indigenous communities and rural areas.

3.2. Criterion

The main membership criterion is the voluntary commitment made by the school leadership and community to promote UNESCO's values, ideals, and work through:

- a. Using innovative and participatory methodologies and approaches,
- b. Providing safe, sustainable, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all students,
- c. Interacting with schools in their own country and other countries. These aspects of the commitment are examined in the application process. Members must also commit to fulfilling the membership commitments listed in Section 2.

3.3. Priority

Priority will be given to:

- a. Public schools.
- b. Schools serving Indigenous and rural communities.
- c. Schools serving linguistic minorities (ex. French schools outside Quebec, English schools in Quebec, French immersion schools).

3.4. Application

New schools that wish to join the ASPnet in Canada as candidate schools must send a letter of intention to their [provincial coordinator](#). Schools that wish to join ASPnet as full members [must apply online](#) only when the preparatory period of two years has been completed. The admission process is illustrated in *Figure 2*.

The school's principal and another main contact (teacher or educator) are required as main contacts for the application process. Schools have the responsibility to pass on their login information in case of staff changes and must update their contact information online. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure the transfer of this information.

In exceptional cases when there are technical difficulties in submitting or processing applications online, the International Coordinator can provide, upon request, hard-copy forms to the National Coordinator for submission by mail. There is no application fee and no membership fee to be paid by schools.

3.5. Preparatory period

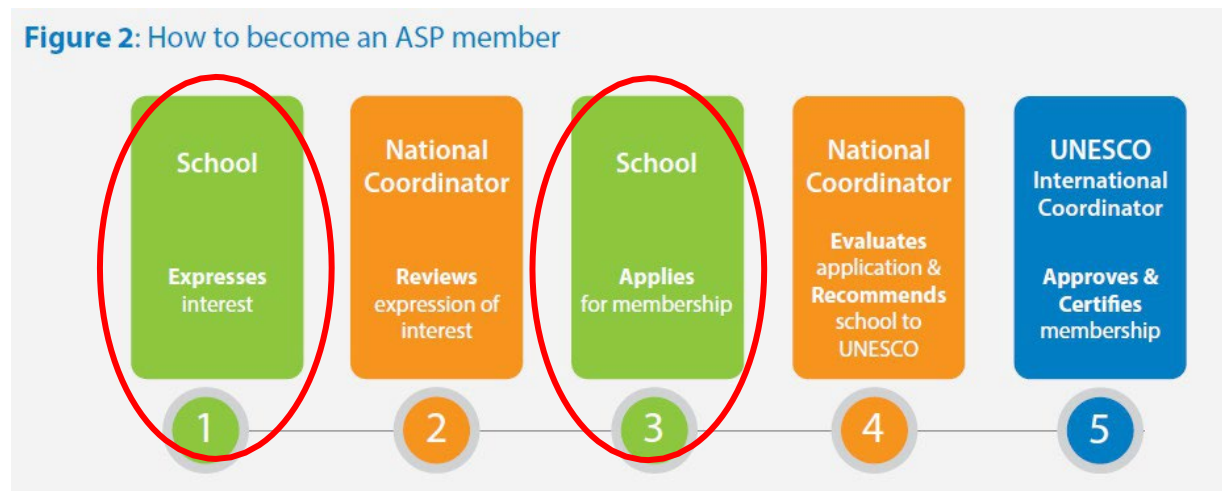
A preparatory period of at least two years is recommended for candidate schools following the submission of the Expression of Interest (step 1) and the Application (step 3) to the National Coordinator (see Figure 2). Countries devise their own national pre-selection and preparatory processes within the overall guidelines provided by UNESCO.

3.6. Certification

Membership is granted and certified exclusively by UNESCO (step 5), based on the recommendation received from the Provincial and National Coordinators in Canada. UNESCO sends an electronic membership confirmation to the school and the National Coordinator. UNESCO also sends a signed original certificate to the National Coordinator for transmission to the new member. When certified, schools receive a username and tutorial for the online platform from UNESCO, and are included in the global [UNESCO ASPnet Directory](#). Only those schools officially certified by UNESCO are called ASPnet members.

3.7. Duration

Membership has a fixed duration of five (5) years. Membership can be renewed for the same duration, providing the required conditions are fulfilled. The main means of verification is the annual member's report (see Section 2), which the Provincial or National Coordinator can complement through visits or other monitoring and/or evaluation measures. UNESCO may also carry out selective monitoring exercises for quality assurance.

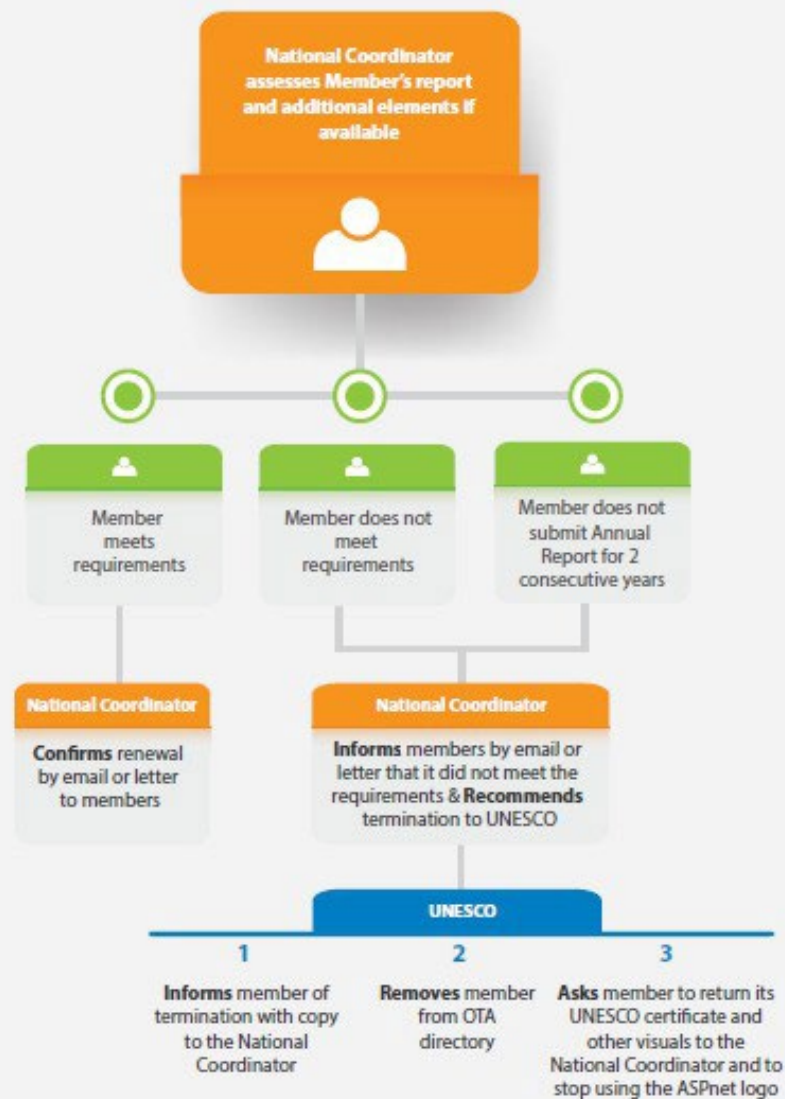


3.8 Renewal or termination

When a membership expires, the Provincial or National Coordinator informs the member if the requirements (see Section 2) were carried out satisfactorily, and either confirms the renewal or recommends that membership be terminated by UNESCO (see Figure 3).

A member school can terminate its own membership at any time by writing to the National Coordinator, who informs UNESCO. In both situations, UNESCO confirms the termination of membership to the member and the National Coordinator and removes the member's name from the global directory.

Figure 3: ASPnet Membership renewal or termination



4. Type of activities, projects and guides

ASPnet activities and projects can be developed by the International Coordinator, National Coordinators, Provincial/Territorial Coordinators, or member schools themselves. Members can choose the ASPnet activities and projects that they want to implement, but they must also contribute every year to at least one activity initiated by the International Coordinator, or to a related national activity proposed by their Provincial Coordinator and or the National Coordinator.

National and Provincial Coordinators can also provide resources, tools and guides that are specific to the country and region. ASPnet provides [UNESCO resources and guides for schools and teachers](#).

5. Thematic focus

In line with its mission and objectives (see Section 1), ASPnet contributes to the achievement of global and national goals that can vary over time. In the context of the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](#), and in particular [SDG 4 - Education 2030](#), the thematic action areas of ASPnet in Canada include:

- i. Promoting UNESCO mission and values
- ii. Global Citizenship Education – GCED
- iii. Education for Sustainable development- ESD
- iv. Reconciliation

6. Visual identity

The UNESCO Certificate given to members should be visibly displayed in the school. Members may also be given a poster, a sign, or a flag with the ASPnet Members logo by their National Coordinator or develop their own visual materials previously authorized by the national office. Schools can also call upon students to make a mural or painting to symbolize the school's ASPnet membership. Members are entitled to the use of the ASPnet members' logo in accordance with the rules and regulations of UNESCO.