TRIBAL CONSULTATION BP 1420

Federally recognized Tribes are sovereign nations with inherent rights to self-govern and make decisions impacting their citizens. The School Board is committed to building authentic, respectful, and collaborative relationships with Tribal governments and their shared relationships with communities, families, and organizations to improve educational outcomes for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students.

The Board acknowledges that meaningful tribal consultation extends beyond federal compliance requirements and represents a foundational commitment to honoring Indigenous knowledge, cultural perspectives, and educational sovereignty in service of student success. The Board is committed to educating themselves on the tribal governance and cultural structures of their school district and region.

Together with Tribes, families, and communities, the district will strive to ensure AI/AN students learn in culturally rich environments, follow personalized pathways, and develop as leaders who are grounded in their heritage and are empowered to shape their futures. The district commits to creating trauma-engaged, culturally responsive educational experiences that honor each student's identity while building academic and life skills.

When Tribal consultation is required, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate a formal tribal consultation process. Additionally, the district is encouraged to engage in voluntary consultation on major policies, programs, or initiatives impacting AI/AN students, regardless of enrollment thresholds or funding levels.

In partnership with Tribes (and/or their designee) and tribal communities, the district may:

- Integrate Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, and place-based learning into educational programs, in accordance with state curriculum standards.
- Engage Elders and Tribal community members as educators, mentors, and cultural advisors.
- Create school environments to visibly honor and celebrate AI/AN cultures and languages.
- Support AI/AN language instruction and preservation efforts.
- Provide culturally specific student support services and mentorship programs.
- Offer professional development for staff on Indigenous education methods and cultural responsiveness.
- Define shared educational goals and success measures for AI/AN students.
- Include AI/AN voices in educational planning and resource allocation decisions.
- Develop joint monitoring and evaluation processes for programs serving AI/AN students.

Data Sharing and Privacy

To ensure student success/achievement and to effectively audit and evaluate federal programs, Tribes and districts will utilize data. When appropriate, and in compliance with federal and state privacy laws, the district may enter into formal agreements with tribal organizations, to share student data for educational evaluation and program improvement purposes, following

established protocols that protect student confidentiality while supporting tribal educational initiatives.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6174.1 - Education of Native/Indian Children)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Legal Reference

United States Code

20 U.S.C.§ 7918 - Consultation with Indian tribes and tribal organizations
20 U.S.C §§ 7541-7546 Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act
20 U.S.C § 7704 Policies and procedures relating to children residing on Indian Lands

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