

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: June 6, 2023

NUMBER: 23-131

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 6141.3,
Instruction, Culturally
Responsive Education;
First Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6141.3, Instruction, Culturally Responsive Education and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when changes in law occur or when specific need occurs. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board. This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6141.3, Instruction, Culturally Responsive Education.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6141.3, Instruction, Culturally Responsive Education as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6141.3 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6141.3, Instruction, Culturally Responsive Education as presented and open for public comments.

BP 6141.3 CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE~~MULTICULTURAL~~ EDUCATION

Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted as needed. -A.S. 14.20.020 requires multicultural training for issuance of teaching certificates. -A.S. 14.20.035 gives preference in hiring persons with training or experience in cultures represented in the student population.

The School Board recognizes that America has always been a multicultural society composed of diverse peoples who came here from all parts of the globe and are indigenous to these lands. Many regions of Alaska are still predominately composed of Alaska's indigenous peoples. Public schools are the most common shared experience for most Americans, and ~~it is the job of the~~ schools ~~shall~~to accurately reflect and respond to the needs and the contributions of all ethnic groups, which comprise the student body and staff~~to the common culture.~~

The School Board recognizes that a culturally responsive education that is effectively implemented through culturally proficient instruction can provide the maximum opportunity for students to attain academic and social success. Culturally responsive teaching practices can assist educators in bridging differences in language, heritage, ethnicity, socio-economic status, historical trauma and ability.

School staff and students~~Students~~ must learn to respect and work cooperatively with persons of all backgrounds. Culturally proficient and responsive instruction will promote student recognition of~~Instruction should help students realize~~ the value of individual differences as well as the human dignity and worth common to all people.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidance on how to best serve the needs of the student population. The cultural needs of students are an important consideration in policies on curriculum and materials, onboarding and orientation, school climate, language instruction, and access to cultural content.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6174 - Bilingual-Bicultural Education)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.20.020 Requirements for issuance of certificate

14.20.035 Evaluation of training and experience

Resource:

Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Revised: (Date of Revision)

Northwest Arctic Borough School District