

1 **Browning Public Schools**

2
3 Policy #5172

4 Policy Name: *Blackfeet Education for All*

5 Regulation: -----

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7 **In compliance with Article X of Montana’s Constitution:**

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- 9 1) *It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full*
- 10 *potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person*
- 11 *of the state.*
- 12
- 13 2) *The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indian and is*
- 14 *committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.*
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16 **Browning Public Schools observes the following philosophy statement:**

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18 *The Blackfeet Indians once created and maintained a way of life for centuries, a life rich in*

19 *culture, tradition and language. The Blackfeet language is the key to identity, expression,*

20 *knowledge, compassion, human dignity, historical roots, artistic potential and future*

21 *survival. Just as elders once taught customs and values at home, Blackfeet students now*

22 *seek to relearn and recapture a sense of their past as they move forward in the public*

23 *school system.*

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25 Browning Public Schools will develop and implement an educational policy that promotes both core

26 academic knowledge and Blackfeet cultural knowledge equally. Whenever possible, courses,

27 curriculum and learning will include Montana Tribes and American Indian/Alaska Natives. Further,

28 the Board and Administration will implement the following action plan:

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30 ***Curriculum.*** Browning Public Schools will adopt a K-12 curriculum that correlates Blackfeet

31 Cultural Knowledge with Core Academic Knowledge. All standards, academic benchmarks and

32 curriculum, will include Blackfeet language, history, culture and contemporary issues across the

33 curriculum. Instructional resources to support the curriculum will be culturally relevant.

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35 ***Assessment.*** As current statewide or national assessments do not provide measurement tools for

36 American Indian/Blackfeet knowledge curriculum, Browning Public Schools will develop

37 assessment strategies by which to assess the teaching of the curriculum and will provide

38 measurements of progress and student success in meeting standards and benchmarks. These

39 measurements will be provided to the community, school personnel and students.

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41 ***Professional Development.*** Browning Public Schools will require all educational staff to complete

42 significant professional development training (provided by the district) in Blackfeet language,

43 history, culture and contemporary issues to compliment their teaching assignments. This requirement

44 is for certified staff and includes completing six (6) quarter credit hours in Blackfeet/Native

45 American Studies as Option One. Option Two will be to complete 90 hours of assigned related

46 readings and cultural activity participation from Blackfeet/Native American Studies Program.

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1 ***Tribal Recruitment.*** Browning Public Schools will identify, encourage and promote qualified Indian
2 educators as an integral part of the instructional staff to help support *Blackfeet Education For All*
3 across the curriculum.

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5 ***Community Involvement.*** Browning Public Schools will actively encourage all Blackfeet
6 Reservation community members to become more involved in *Blackfeet Education For All* through
7 forums, workshops and institutes.

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9 ***Blackfeet Language Preservation.*** Browning Public Schools values the Blackfeet language which is
10 the community's first language. The Board and Administration will encourage and support various
11 Blackfeet language formats (community forums, immersion programs, curriculum designs,
12 manuscript, bibliographies and scholarly research). Students and staff will have opportunities to
13 enhance their knowledge and skills in Blackfeet language leading to Class 7 Certification.

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15 ***Student Achievement.*** Browning Public Schools will encourage all students to attain their academic,
16 cultural and humanistic potential. Further, Browning Public Schools maintains a policy of high
17 expectations for all students, including higher education and future employment, in the community.

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19 ***Tribal Education Consortium.*** Browning Public Schools will work together with other public school
20 districts and educators throughout the state to identify, draft and implement all aspects of curriculum,
21 assessment and professional development. A spring conference will be held for tribal educators and
22 school districts to share findings, materials and resources to enhance tribal learning.

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24 The Board of Trustees will discuss, evaluate and uphold the *Blackfeet Education for All* plan
25 annually.

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30 **Cross Reference:**

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33 **Legal Reference:** MCA 20-1-501 Recognition of American Indian Cultural Heritage –
34 Legislative Intent.

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37 **Policy History:**
38 Adopted on: 4/9/02
39 Amended on: