

Indian Policies and Procedures

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District

2025-26 School Year

It is the intent of the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District that all Indian children of school age have equal access to all programs, services and activities offered within the school district. To this end, the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will consult with the local, tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children in the planning and development of Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs), general education programs, and activities. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually, and revisions will be made within 90 days of the determination that requirements are not being adequately met.

Assurances

The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District assures that it has established Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs) as required in section 7004 of the Impact Aid law for any Indian children claimed who reside on eligible Indian lands. The IPPs have been adequately disseminated to the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children residing on eligible Indian lands. A copy of the current policies and procedures was attached to the FY 2027 Impact Aid application.

The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District assures that it has provided a copy of written responses to comments, concerns and recommendations received from tribal leaders and parents/guardians of Indian children through the Indian policies and procedures consultation process and disseminates these responses to tribal leaders and parents/guardians of Indian children at least annually.

Policies and Procedures

The school district (Local Education Agency/LEA) engages in formal, tribal consultation on a semiannual to annual basis depending on the availability of the tribal nation. The school district attempts to engage in fall and spring consultation. The tribal nation's preferred method of communication for the tribal consultation meeting is in-person, when able to conduct it safely for all participants. The tribal nation's preferred method of communication for receiving data and documents reviewed during tribal consultation is via email. The tribal nation requires the school profile document to be shared at least two weeks in advance.

The following Indian policies and procedures become effective upon school board approval.

Policy 1: The LEA will disseminate relevant applications, evaluations, program plans and information related to the LEA's education program and activities with sufficient advance notice to allow the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children the opportunity to review and make recommendations. [34CFR222.94(a)(1)]

Procedure 1:

1.1 At least two weeks in advance of a tribal consultation meeting, the LEA will disseminate, via email to the LEA's tribal nation partner, the school profile for tribal consultation which

contains the following information:

- Demographics;
- Enrollment;
- Budget;
- Student needs;
- Number of American Indian students participating in programs;
- American Indian student accountability data.

1.2 At least one week in advance of the annual, public hearing, the LEA will disseminate, via email and the online parent portal, to parents/guardians of Indian children, a copy of the following documents:

- Impact Aid FY 2027 application;
- Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs);
- School profile for tribal consultation.

1.3 This will allow parents/guardians of Indian children and the tribal nation the time to review and provide comments on all documents and information received.

Policy 2: The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will provide an opportunity for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children to provide their views on the district's educational program and activities, including recommendations on the needs of their children and how the district may help those children realize the benefits of the educational programs and activities. [34CFR222 .94(a)(2)] As a part of this requirement, the LEA will-

- (i) Notify the tribal nation and the parents/guardians of Indian children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations, considering the tribal nation's preference for method of communication, and
- (ii) Modify the method of and time for soliciting Indian views, if necessary, to ensure the maximum participation of the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children.

Procedure 2:

2.1 The LEA will make the following opportunities available for parents/guardians of Indian children and the tribal nation to provide input on the educational program and activities:

- The LEA will initiate tribal consultation meetings with the tribal nation twice a year. Depending on the availability of the tribal nation, meetings will be held in the fall and spring of each school year. The meetings will take place in-person at

the tribal nation's preferred location including off-campus such as the tribal nation government building or the community center.

- The LEA will email relevant documents to the tribal nation at least one week in advance of a meeting, application due date, or other corresponding deadline.
- The LEA will attend American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) meetings as scheduled by the committee. Each meeting agenda will provide an opportunity for AIPAC members and other parents/guardians of Indian children to submit recommendations and provide input. For the school year 2025-26, meetings are held monthly, August through June, at 5:30pm with alternating locations of the high school and community center.
- The LEA will conduct an annual needs assessment to fulfill requirements of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program. For the school year 2025-26, the needs assessment will be in the format of a family survey. The family survey will be sent virtually via email and the online parent portal to parents/guardians of Indian children. A summary of the results will be provided at AIPAC and school board meetings in the spring following the closing of the survey.

2.2 Parents/guardians of Indian children will be given notice of AIPAC meetings via the school website and in-person postings in each school building including the Indian Education resource rooms and the district office at the beginning of each school year. Tribal consultation meetings will be scheduled based upon the availability of the tribal nation and scheduling will take place via phone and email, and finalized via email. Notice of the public hearing will be emailed and sent via the online parent portal to parents/guardians of Indian and emailed to the tribal nation.

2.3 The preferred method of communication with the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children will be used throughout the consultation process. Any changes to the method will happen through additional consultation with the tribal nation and parents/guardians. The LEA will, to the greatest extent possible, take the tribal nation's preferred method of communication into consideration for all correspondence with the tribal nation and the parents/guardians of Indian children.

2.4 If the consultation participation by parents/guardians of Indian children and the tribal nation is low, the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will re-evaluate its consultation process. Specifically, the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will take the following measures to improve or enhance participation:

- Consult with parents/guardians of Indian children and tribal nations;
- Change communication method;
- Change time of meeting.

Policy 3: The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will, at least annually, assess the extent to which Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the district's education program and activities. [34CFR222.94(a)(3)] As part of this requirement, the LEA will:

- (i) Share relevant information related to Indian children's participation in the LEA's education program and activities with the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children; and
- (ii) Allow the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children the opportunity and time to review and comment on whether Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children.

Procedure 3:

3.1 In preparation for each tribal consultation meeting, the LEA completes the school profile document to the best of their knowledge. Using the district's student information system, LEA administration including building principals, program directors and the Indian Education Director compile the categories of data and narrative responses as requested in the school profile.

3.2 The LEA provides American Indian student enrollment numbers including pre-k/headstart, elementary and secondary, free or reduced lunch and special education. Also, the LEA provides data on the following race categories: Native American, Hispanic, Multi-Race, Black, and White. The school profile requests data on the following categories:

- Graduation Rates: 4yr, 5yr, 6yr, 7yr;
- Students on an Individual Learning Plan;
- Students who are truant;
- Students in alternative education;
- Students who have dropped out;
- Students with recorded discipline data;
- Students on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
- Students involved in extracurricular athletic programs: cheer, volleyball, football etc.;
- Students involved in extracurricular fine arts programs: band, choir, speech, quiz bowl etc.;
- Students enrolled in postsecondary coursework (PSEO);
- Students enrolled in College and Career Readiness (CCR) programs;
- Students at risk due to high mobility rate;
- Students identified as Gifted and Talented in each domain.

Finally, according to the school profile, the LEA provides narrative responses to the following areas under Student Needs:

- How will student's needs be identified, culturally, linguistically, and academically;
- Size and scope of equitable services;
- Proportion of funds allocation for services;
- How services will be assessed and improved based on assessment results;
- How, where, when and by whom services will be provided;
- How and when decisions about the delivery of services will be made;
- Parent and tribal engagement.

3.3 The school profile will be reviewed at the tribal consultation meetings. American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) members are invited to attend tribal consultation. The school profile will be shared with parents/guardians of Indian children via email and the online parent portal prior to the annual, public hearing.

3.4 The LEA will accept comments, recommendations, and feedback on equal participation from the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children during the in-person tribal consultation and public hearing meetings and via email or direct communication at any time following the meetings.

3.5 The LEA will share the school profile with parents/guardians of Indian children at least one week in advance of the public hearing, and with the tribal nation at least one week in advance of a tribal consultation meeting.

3.6 If it is determined that there are gaps in Indian participation in the educational program or activities, the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District in consultation with the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children, will modify its education program in such a way as to improve Indian participation.

Policy 4: The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will modify the IPPs if necessary, based upon the results of any assessment or input described in this document.
[34CRF222.94(a)(4)]

Procedure 4:

4.1 The content of the IPPs will be discussed at the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) meeting prior to school board approval of the IPPs, and at the AIPAC meeting which will also serve as the public hearing. For school year 20256-26, the IPPs will be discussed at the January AIPAC meeting on January 5, 2026 and at the public hearing following submission of the Impact Aid FY 2027 application which will take place after February 2, 2026 and before the end of the school year. Parents/guardians of Indian children will be notified via email, the online parent portal, and in-person school postings regarding these meetings and their ability to submit comments.

4.2 The American Indian Parent Advisory Committee will evaluate and decide on all recommendations for revisions to these IPPs.

4.3 Any changes will be submitted to the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School Board for approval and will become effective immediately upon adoption.

4.4 The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will disseminate copies of the revised IPPs to the tribal nation and parents/guardians of Indian children by email and/or the online parent portal within 30 days of adoption by the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School Board.

Policy 5: The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will respond at least annually in writing to comments and recommendations made by tribes or parents of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to the tribe and parents of Indian children prior to the submission of the IPPs by the LEA. [34CRF222.94(a)(5)]

Procedure 5:

5.1 The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will annually keep track of and assemble all comments and recommendations received through the various consultation processes by addressing recommendations as an agenda item at each American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) meeting.

5.2 The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the tribal nation, or parents/guardians of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to all parties by posting AIPAC meeting minutes on the school website prior to the submission of the IPPs by the district.

Policy 6: The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will provide a copy of the IPPs annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34CR F222.94 (a)(6)]

Procedure 6:

6.1 The Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribal nation by email prior to submitting the Impact Aid Application.

Board Approval Date

3/9/26

DocuSigned by:
Kane Johnson

Board Chair Signature and Date

1/28/26