

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: KATHY PALM, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & ADMIN. SERVICES

SUBJECT: 2016-2017 INDIAN EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

COMMENTS:

The Local Indian Education annually reviews and approves Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs). The IPPs are a part of the Title VIII (Impact Aid Program) application. In order to be approved for the Impact Aid dollars, the district's IPPs must meet eight standards. The IPPs have been rewritten to very clearly meet all of the standards and include the current goals. Approval of the following Indian Education Policies and Procedures is requested.

**Policies and Procedures Developed by
Bemidji Area Schools to Assure Compliance
With the P.L. 89-10 as amended Impact Aid
Indian Policies and Procedures
Application Number: 33-MN-2018-1603
*Revised: January 17, 2017**

It is the intent of the Bemidji Area Schools, Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji, Minnesota, that all American Indian children of school age have equal access to all programs, services, and activities offered in the school district. It is the intent of the Bemidji Area Schools to fully comply with all requirements of Title VIII (Impact Aid Program) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (formerly Public Law 81-874), and to that end, the Governing Board has adopted as policy these Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs).

Bemidji Area Schools has been a leader in developing policies, procedures and programs to address the unique needs of its Indian students. The policies, procedures and programs that have been developed ensure parent and tribal involvement in the education of children residing on Indian lands as defined in 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 223.

Philosophy

The district philosophy of education defined in School Regulation 400-10-1 includes the following sections relating to respect for other cultures and differences:

Furthermore, we believe that life in a democratic society offers citizens the best possible opportunities for productivity, achievement, and happiness. Accordingly, we not only educate our students to believe in and appreciate democracy, to know its origins, to understand its principles, and to make it work; but we also educate our students to be aware

of, understand, and develop an appreciation for the rich cultural diversity that has made our country great.

Finally, we believe that in today's complex world it is essential for our students to develop an understanding of the cultures of other nations. Accordingly, we educate our students to know the origins of other cultures and to understand the principles upon which they were founded.

Central among these requirements is that each individual must be educated irrespective of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, native language and mental, emotional or physical capacity. We gladly meet the letter of these requirements because we are in full accord with their spirit.

Recruitment of Indian Staff Members

Bemidji Area Schools' officials, directed by the Board of Education, have embarked on an active recruitment of teachers and staff who are of Indian origin. The Director of Human Resources publishes and posts vacancies with Native American employment agencies. Contacts are also made with centers of higher learning to recruit teachers and administrators who are of Indian origin. Bemidji Area Schools recognizes the importance of Indian teachers and staff as critical components of an education system that educates many American Indian students.

Indian Education Program

The Indian Education Program within the Bemidji Area Schools offers a number of unique programs for Indian students. The numbers of programs offered has sharply increased over the past years. Programs relating to American Indian culture and Ojibwe language have been added to both the elementary and secondary curriculum provided to all students – Indian and non-Indian. Additional staff has been hired to serve as Indian Home/School/Liaisons who serve as a liaison between home and school regarding educational issues. A post-secondary counselor is available to promote the movement of Indian students at the high school level into post-secondary training. In addition, a tutor program to promote Indian learner attendance and academic success is located at (4) elementary schools.

The Indian Home/School Liaisons are also involved in all special education assessments and placements regarding Indian students. They serve as advocates for both students and parents. The Home/School Liaisons are trained to have a thorough understanding of special education rules and regulations.

Board of Education

The Board of Education is very sensitive to unique learning needs of Indian students. They recognize the need to involve Indian parents and tribal leaders in the district education process. All members of the Board of Education encourage this involvement.

The Board of Education has listed the following district goals:

Goal A Reading:

In Bemidji Area Schools district-wide the “All Students” group will increase their proficiency of 60.7% in the Spring of 2016 to 63.7% in the Spring of 2017 as measured by the MCA/MTAS in Reading for students enrolled October 1.

Goal A1 Bemidji Area Schools district-wide will close achievement gaps for the following subgroups as measured by the MCA in Reading:

American Indian students’ proficiency will improve from 41.8% to 44.8% in Spring 2017.

Goal B Mathematics:

In Bemidji Area Schools district-wide, the “All Students” group will increase their proficiency of 61.3% in the Spring of 2016 to 64.3% in the Spring of 2017 as measured by the MCA/MTAS in Mathematics for students enrolled October 1.

Goal B1 Bemidji Area Schools district-wide will close achievement gaps for the following subgroups as measured by the MCA in Mathematics:

American Indian students’ proficiency will improve from 41.8% to 44.8% in Spring 2017.

Policies and Procedures

1. POLICY

Tribal officials and parents of Indian children shall be provided an opportunity to comment on the participation of Indian children on an equal basis in all programs and activities offered by the Bemidji Area Schools. [34 CFR222.94 (a)(I)]

PROCEDURES

- 1.1 The Bemidji Area Schools’ LEA, the Indian Education Parent Committee (here forth, referred to as the LIEC which stands for Local Indian Education Committee) will generally meet monthly during the school year. Meetings are open to the public and tribal officials are encouraged to participate.
- 1.2 LIEC members are elected by the committee’s set of by-laws.
- 1.3 A draft copy of the Indian Policies and Procedures and the potential Parent Committee Roster will be made available at the first fall LIEC meeting.
- 1.4 At the October LIEC meeting Tribal officials, parents of Indian children, and staff will:
 - Review data on Indian children's equal participation in the educational programs of the district and prepare comment and/or recommendations.
 - Review assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the district and the district’s goals for reducing the achievement gap that currently exists between Indian students and non-Indian students; and prepare comments and/or recommendations.
 - Approve the Parent Committee Roster.
 - Approve the Indian Policies and Procedures for the Title VIII application

- 1.5 At the February School Board meeting, a representative (s) from the LIEC will present the following information:
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to whether Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the LEA's programs and activities.
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the district and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap.
 - A resolution will be passed containing the American Indian Education Transmittal of Resolution and the parent committee roster.
- 1.6 Additionally, all citizens are welcome to meet with school board members to express their opinions at any point throughout the year. Citizens can either share their thoughts with a school board member at a listening session prior to the board meeting or sign up to publicly comment at the school board meeting.
- 1.7 Once the data is prepared for the Title VIII application, it will be shared with the LIEC for their review and comment.

2. POLICY

The district will annually assess the extent to which Indian students are participating on an equal basis in the educational programs and activities of the district. [34 CFR 222.94(a)(2)]

PROCEDURES

- 2.1 At the October LIEC meeting Tribal officials, parents of Indian children, and staff will review data on Indian children's equal participation in the educational programs of the district and assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students.
 - The committee will prepare and approve a statement which will be shared with the school board. This statement will synthesize the data that the LIEC considered most important and provide comment and/or recommendations which may include modifications of educational programs and services.
- 2.2 At the December School Board meeting, a representative(s) from the LIEC will present the following information:
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to whether Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the LEA's programs and activities.
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the district and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap.

3. POLICY

The district shall seek input from the LIEC when necessary, in order to modify educational programs and services when progress is not being made, or there appears to be a lack of equal participation for Indian students. [34 CFR 222.94(a)(3)]

PROCEDURES

3.1 When assessment data indicate Indian students do not participate on an equal basis with non-Indian students, or make appropriate progress, the LIEC will be asked to recommend a plan or suggestions to modify the educational programs or services in order to attain equal participation or appropriate progress. Recommendations will be presented to the Bemidji Area Schools Board of Education for possible action.

4. POLICY

The following materials will annually be disseminated to Tribal officials and Indian parents:

- Data on Indian children's equal participation in the educational programs of the district;
- Assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the district and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap that currently exists between Indian students and non-Indian students;
- The Parent Committee Roster;
- The Indian Policies and Procedures for the Title VIII application;
- The Title VIII Application;

Adequate time and opportunity will be provided the LIEC, Tribal officials, and Indian parents to present views and comments regarding the disseminated documents. [34 CFR 222.94(a)(4)]

PROCEDURES

4.1 The following information will be sent out to Tribal Officials, parents of Indian Students, and current LIEC Members along with the invitation to the October LIEC meeting:

- The agenda for the October meeting;
- Proposed dates and times for all LIEC meeting for the remainder of the school year. (This may be modified at the LIEC meeting based on input from members and those attending this special meeting.)
- Data on Indian children's equal participation in the educational programs of the District;
- Assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the District and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap that currently exists between Indian students and non-Indian students;
- The Parent Committee Roster. (This may be modified at the LIEC meeting.)

4.2 The Title VII Application will be sent once completed around February to all people indicating interested in receiving updates and agendas from the LIEC.

5. POLICY

The Indian Education Staff shall solicit information from Tribal officials and Indian parents on Indian views including: response to participation in educational programs, assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the district, priorities for Indian children; and LIEC meeting frequency, location, and time. [34 CFR 222.94(a)(5)]

PROCEDURES

- 5.1 At the October LIEC meeting Tribal officials, parents of Indian children, and staff will:
 - Review data on Indian children's equal participation in the educational programs of the District and prepare comment and/or recommendations.
 - Review assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the District and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap that currently exists between Indian students and non-Indian students; and prepare comments and/or recommendations.
 - Approve the Parent Committee Roster
 - Approve the Indian Policies and Procedures for the Title VIII application
 - Approve meeting frequency, location, and times.
- 5.2 At the December School Board meeting, a representative(s) from the LIEC will present the following information:
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to whether Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the LEA's programs and activities.
 - The comments/recommendations prepared by the LIEC in regards to assessment data for Indian students and non-Indian students in the District and the district's goals for reducing the achievement gap.
- 5.3 At the January School Board meeting, a representative(s) from the LIEC will present the following information:
 - The LIEC approved Indian Policies and Procedures.
- 5.4 At the February LIEC meeting, the Title VIII application will be reviewed and recommendations for modifications will be made prior to the LEA sending the application.
 - A resolution will be passed containing the American Indian Education Transmittal of Resolution and the Parent Committee Roster.

6. POLICY

The District shall notify Tribal officials and Indian parents of the locations and times of meetings.

PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Tribal officials, Indian parents, the LIEC, and Indian Education Center staff will be notified as to the location and times of the October LIEC meetings. Notice will be posted in the school's District Office, at School Offices, emails will be sent to all parents and individuals providing contact information to the LIEC, and Tribal Councils will receive paper copies of the notice, agenda items, and prepared documents.
- 6.2 After the October meeting, only those who have expressed interest in remaining on the LIEC's contact list will receive future information.

7. POLICY

The District shall actively consult and regularly involve the LIEC in the planning and development of educational programs and services. [34 CFR 222.94(a)(7)]

PROCEDURES

- 7.1 LIEC members, Tribal officials, parents of Indian children, and representation from the LEA will review assessment data to develop or modify educational programs or services to allow participation of Indian students on an equal basis. These findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education in December.
- 7.2 LIEC members, Tribal officials, parents of Indian children, and representation from the LEA will be notified of modifications to programs or services.

8. POLICY

Bemidji Area Schools shall modify the IPPs, if necessary, based upon input from the Tribal officials and parents of Indian children.

PROCEDURES

- 8.1 The LIEC will review and make suggestions for modifications to the IPPs annually at the first fall LIEC meeting.
- 8.2 After further review, with the full LIEC as well as Tribal officials and parents present; the IPPs will be approved at the October LIEC meeting.

ACTION:

The motion was offered by _____, seconded by _____, and carried () to approve the Bemidji Area Schools Indian Education Policies and Procedures as written.