INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

BENNINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

It is the intent of the Bennington 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 Bennington School District will consult with local tribal officials and parents of Indian children in the planning and development of Indian Policies and Procedures (IPP), 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.

**ATTESTATIONS**

The Bennington School District attests that it has established Indian Policies and Procedures (IPP) as required in section 7004 of the Impact Aid law for any children claimed who reside on eligible Indian lands. The IPP’s have been adequately disseminated to the tribes and parents of children residing on eligible Indian lands. A copy of the current policies and procedures was attached to the FY-24 Impact Aid application.

The Bennington School District attests that it has provided a copy of written responses to comments, concerns, and recommendations received from tribal leaders and parents of Indian children through the Indian policies and procedures consultation process and disseminated these responses to tribal leaders and parents of Indian children prior to the submission of their FY-24 Impact Aid application.

**Indian Policies and Procedures**

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 tribes and parents of Indian children the opportunity to review and make recommendations. [34 CFR 222.94 (a)(1)]

**Procedure 1:**

* 1. Upon request, the school district will disseminate the Impact Aid application, the

equal participation evaluation, and program plans to the tribal officials and a

summary to the parents of Indian children.

* 1. The aforementioned documentation will be disseminated via mail or e-mail and

posted on the district’s website, if applicable.

* 1. The aforementioned documents will be sent out as soon as possible, but at a minimum of one week in advance of any meeting to discuss them.

**POLICY 2:** The Bennington School District will provide an opportunity for the Choctaw Tribe and parents 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. [34 CFR 222.94 (a) (2)]

1. Notify tribes and parents of Indian children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations, considering the tribe’s preference for method of communication, and
2. Modify the method of and time for soliciting Indian views, if necessary, to ensure the maximum participation of tribes and parents of Indian children.

**Procedure 2:**

2.1 The Indian Education Parent Committee meets annually for the purposes of soliciting input from the tribe and parents of Indian children on the content of the educational program and activities. In addition, individuals may request to be

put on the agenda where they may provide comments, concerns, or

recommendations to the school board. Parents and tribal officials may also

contact the school district directly to provide input on the content of the

educational program and activities.

2.2 The parents of Indian children will be notified of any and all meetings at which they can provide input on the content of the educational program and activities via the school district’s SMS notification, e-mail, and/or notice sent home with

students. The meeting time and location will also be published in the local paper,

school Facebook page, and the district’s website.

2.3 The tribe’s preferred method of communication is mail or e-mail.

2.4 To the extent possible, the school district will consider the tribe’s preferred method of communication in all contact related to these IPPs and the consultation process.

2.5 If consultation meetings have a low participation rate, the school district will work with the tribe and the parents of Indian children to determine how to modify the consultation process in a way that improves participation.

**POLICY 3:** The Bennington School District will 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. [34 CFR 222.94 (a) (3)]

1. Share relevant information related to Indian children’s participation in the LEA’s education program and activities with tribes and parents of Indian children; and
2. Allow tribes and parents 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 The school district will mathematically calculate the rate of Indian children’s participation with non-Indian children for the entire academic program and co- curricular activities.

3.2 The school district will consider all academic and co-curricular activities its calculation of participation rates.

3.3 Upon request, the school district will send the complete evaluation to the tribe by

mail or e-mail and a summary of the evaluation will be sent to the parents via

mail, e-mail, and/or notice sent home with students with information on how the

parents may obtain a full copy of the documents. These documents will be

disseminated as soon as possible, but at least one week in advance of any meeting

to discuss them.

3.4 The Indian Education Parent Committee (IPC) meets annually for the purposes

of soliciting input from the tribe and parents of Indian children on equal participation. In addition, individuals may request to be put on the agenda where

they may provide comments, concerns, or recommendations to the school board.

Parents and tribal officials may also contact the school district directly to provide

input on equal participation.

3.5 The equal participation evaluation will be sent out as soon as possible, but at a minimum of one week in advance of any meeting to discuss them.

**POLICY 4:** The Bennington School District will modify the IPP if necessary, based upon the results of any assessment or input described in this document. [34 CRF 222.94 (a) (4)]

**Procedure 4:**

4.1 At the fall meeting of the IPC, the IPC will review the IPP and make

recommendations for changes. At this meeting, the parents of Indian children and tribal officials may make any recommendations for changes to the IPP. The IPC, parents of Indian children and tribal officials may also make suggestions for changes at other times of the year as IPC meeting, school board meetings, or in direct communication with the school district.

4.2 The IPC evaluates all proposed changes to the IPP. The IPC sends all recommended changes to the school board for consideration.

4.3 The school board decides if the IPP will be revised to accommodate the changes.

4.4 All changes to the IPP become effective upon adoption by the school board.

4.5 The tribe will be notified of any changes to the IPP and a provided a new copy of the IPP via mail or e-mail, and posted on the district’s website, if applicable.

Parents will be advised of changes and provided a summary of the changes via

SMS notification, e-mail, and/or notice sent home with students with instructions on how to obtain a full copy.

**POLICY 5:** The Bennington 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 IPP by the LEA. [34 CRF 222.94 (a) (5)]

**Procedure 5:**

5.1 The school district will respond to comments, questions, and recommendations received related to the IPP or educational program in writing.

5.2 The school district will respond to the comments, questions, and recommendations received related to the IPP or educational program at least annually.

5.3 The written response to comments, questions, and recommendations received related to the IPP or educational program will be disseminated via SMS notification, e-mail, and/or notice sent home with students.

**POLICY 6:** The Bennington School District will provide a copy of the IPP annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34 CRF 222.94 (a) (6)]

**Procedure 6:**

6.1 The school district will send the tribe a copy of the IPP to the tribe before the school district submits its application to the Impact Aid program on or before January 31st.

Board Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature