

**Todd County School District 66-1**

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**Carol Galbraith**  
Superintendent of Schools

**'Empowering all students  
in their success.'**

February 1, 2021

Dear TCSD Students and Families,

On November 23, 2020, the Todd County School Board approved the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understanding (OSEU) Curriculum Education Policy. This is an exciting time to be a part of Todd County School District, as we place the history, culture and language of our students at the forefront of our curriculum and instruction. Todd County is leading the way in our efforts to integrate the OSEUs into all areas of the curriculum. The OSEUs are not new. They were originally rolled out in 2011 and were revised as part of the South Dakota content standards revision cycle in 2018.

The World is a book – read it. And you know what? There's a chapter in that book that's about you. It's your chapter...What will you contribute to the world? What is your chapter going to say?

~ Duane Hollow Horn Bear, Sicangu Lakota Leader

This wisdom from Duane Hollow Horn Bear helps us to think about the importance of the integration of the OSEUs. As our children and students engage in curricular content, they are reading the world. We must ask ourselves:

- Do our children see themselves in that world?
- Do they see their historical and contemporary relatives?
- Do they learn about their own historical and modern Oceti Sakowin identity?
- Are we providing space for TCSD students to develop those identities?
- Will TCSD students be able to write their chapters with pride and respect for the land around them, with a knowledge of their culture and language; and with actions and thoughts aligned to kinship and harmony?

As TCSD educators, we need to be able to answer these questions with an affirmative "Yes!"

The Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards were not solely created for Lakota students to learn about their history and develop their Lakota identities. A knowledge of the history and ways of the Oceti Sakowin strengthens every person's understanding of history and the importance of place. These standards can work to create more empathetic and socially just citizens.

Last year, the TCSD Lakota Language and Culture Committee was established. Committee members represent all schools and grade levels. They represent teachers across the district, and more importantly are working for all of Todd County Students to develop a vision for curriculum and instruction that not only validates students' identities, but fosters their knowledge of Oceti Sakowin history, culture, language, and values.

Committee members would like to remind everyone that we are learning together on this journey to provide more culturally responsive curricula and instruction for Todd County students. We also know that TCSD educators will rely heavily on all relatives, especially elders, in our community to share their guidance, support, and knowledge with our educators as we work to provide TCSD students with culturally relevant learning experiences.

Yours in education,

Carol Galbraith  
Superintendent

**TCSD Values**

Woksape (Wisdom)

Wacantognaka (Generosity)

Woohitka (Courage)

Wowancintanka (Fortitude)