

Indian Policies and Procedures

Commerce Public Schools

1. Children living on Indian Land participate in school programs on an equal basis with all other children attending school in the Commerce district. No teacher or program director is to exclude or limit participation in any district activity on the basis of race.

An annual statistical study will be conducted to determine the extent Indian children do participate on an equal basis; and modifications will be made in the educational programs to allow equal participation of all children.

2. Pertinent program policies/plans, applications and evaluations will be disseminated through one of more of the following ways:
 - a. Mail notices in advance to tribal leaders and parents of Indian children requesting their participation in meetings regarding education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874.
 - b. Inform the Indian community of events in education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 through student handouts and the student newspaper and make greater use of newspapers serving the Commerce area.
 - c. Announce events concerning education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 on radio stations serving the Commerce area.
 - d. Mail copies of the P.L. 81-874 application and evaluations, program plans, and other information concerning education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 to the tribe and to all members of the Title V-C-JOM parent committees (or other group established by the tribe for this purpose) when these items become available.
 - e. Establish a task force, if necessary, to ensure equal participation by Indian children in educational programs.
3. By scheduling through the superintendent's office a place on the agenda of any open meeting of the Commerce Public School Board of Education, a tribe, or their designee, parent, or group of parents concerned with the educational opportunity of any student or group of students in Commerce School District may:
 - a. Present views regarding applications.
 - b. Make recommendations concerning the needs of their children.
 - c. Provide input into the planning and development of the educational program of the district.
 - d. Present views on the educational program and its operation.

In addition to the above, the Commerce Schools;

- a. Make copies of such applications, evaluations and program plans available to any Indian parent upon request.

- b. Provide notice of meetings regarding education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 to the Indian community and to the tribe.
 - c. Work with the tribal leaders to seek input from the Indian parents, tribe and other Indians in the community by using available forms of communication and cooperation to seek and encourage such input.
 - d. Hold all meetings involving or discussing education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 in the school auditorium or a classroom of sufficient size to accommodate all Indian parents who might wish to attend.
 - e. Provide ample time for discussions of education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874.
 - f. Invite comments and suggestions from the Indian community with regard to education programs assisted with funds provided under P.L. 81-874 by holding as many meetings with the tribe and Indian community as are necessary to ensure that the needs of the Indian community are received and considered.
4. A Public Hearing will be held at which time parents of children living on Indian land and/or tribal officials may discuss current status of school programs and desired directions for future development for Board consideration. In addition to the above, Commerce Schools will:
- a. Establish an ad hoc committee of staff members of the LEA to elicit input regarding the general educational program from Indian parents and tribal leaders, and to submit such suggestions to the administration for consideration and evaluation.
 - b. Encourage all staff members to use their best efforts in establishing a more amicable relationship with tribal leaders and parents of Indian children to elicit voluntary input.
 - c. Recommendations of the tribe will be considered and written response will be submitted.
 - d. Dissemination of materials concerning applications, evaluations, and planning will be made by allowing students to hand carry such information to parents. Tribal leaders will be advised by direct mail.
5. An ad hoc committee will be established to review the Indian input and opportunity for input and the LEA's response to the Indian comments recommending changes in the LEA's policies and procedures and recommend modification of the policies and procedures, if necessary, to respond to the Indian input. Provide for a school board meeting to modify the IPP, if necessary.

The above policies and procedures related to tribal and parental involvement in the education of children residing on Indian lands are hereby approved by the Board of Education of Commerce Public Schools in regular session October 9, 1995.

The above policies and procedures shall remain in effect until rescinded by the local board of education.