

BISHOP UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UNDER FEDERAL IMPACT AID
 2019-2020 School Year

It is the intent of the Bishop Unified School District (BUSD) 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 Bishop Unified School District will consult with local tribal officials and parents 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.

It is understood that the Bishop Paiute Tribe will send a notice listing the name(s) and address(es) of the tribe's elected or appointed Indian Education Representative(s) to the district within 30 days of appointment or election. All references in these policies to "Indian Education Representatives" are those representatives named by their tribe.

ATTESTATIONS

The Bishop Unified School District attests that it has established Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs) as required in section 7004 of the Impact Aid law for any children claimed who reside on eligible Indian lands. The IPPs have been adequately disseminated to the tribe and parents of children residing on eligible Indian lands after approval from the PAC and BUSD School Boards. A copy of the current policies and procedures was attached to the FY 2019 Impact Aid application.

The Bishop Unified 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 reports to tribal leaders and parents of Indian children prior to the submission of the FY 2020 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. [34CFR222.94(a)(1)] Native American Liaisons will invite tribal families to attend September PAC meeting and November BUSD School Board Meeting when the IPP will be discussed.

Procedure 1: The District Superintendent will, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but not later than one week in advance of any meeting, distribute for posting to the Parent Education Committee, Tribal Offices, Career Development Center, Toiyabe Clinic, and Indian Education Center the following documents:

- The Federal Impact Aid application;
- Evaluation of all educational programs; and
- Any program plans for education programs that Bishop Unified School District plans to initiate or eliminate.

In addition, information regarding these materials will be included in monthly school newsletters, and posted on District and Tribal websites if appropriate.

Parents of Indian children, tribal officials and the public will be given notice of any and all meetings related to equal participation or the content of the educational program by including information about meeting times and locations in the questionnaire to be disseminated in the fall. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted meeting of the Governing Board.

Policy 2: The Bishop Unified School District will provide an opportunity for the Bishop, Big Pine and Benton Tribes and parents of Indian children to provide their views on the District's educational program and activities, including recommendation 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)]

- (i) Notify tribes and the parents of Indian children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendation, considering the tribes' preferences for method of communication, and
- (ii) 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:

- A-1 The District will provide the Tribal Council Chairs and the Indian Education Parent Committee with information regarding the following:
 - (a) Contacting staff at the school for information;
 - (b) Making presentations at Board meetings (including a list of the dates and times of the regular monthly meetings);
 - (c) Participating in school committees and activities;
 - (d) Due process procedures, including parental appeal rights in student disciplinary matters;
 - (e) Bus conduct rules;
 - (f) Clothing/dress code (gang attire)
- A-2 The District shall send to both the Tribal Councils and the Indian Education Parent Committee, a copy of the agenda and minutes of the regular monthly Board meeting for posting/distribution.
- A-3 One Board meeting will be held annually on the Bishop Reservation during the month of November.
 - (a) At this meeting, time will be allowed for those in attendance to present their views concerning any or all of the following
 - i The needs of Native American children;
 - ii Ways in which the District may assist Native American children to receive the greatest benefit from all educational programs;
 - iii Planning and development of education programs;

- iv Overall views of the District educational program.
- v. Federal Impact Aid budget items;
- vi. Statistical review;
- vii. IPP review

(b) The Tribal Council and/or Indian Parent Education Committee will be provided time to comment on any of the above items.

A-4 The District shall give Tribal Officials and members of the Indian Education Parent Committee the opportunity to review and comment on the Federal Impact Aid IPP's prior to presentation to the School Board.

A-5 No later than September of each year, the District Superintendent shall meet with the Indian Education Parent Committee or concerned parents to review the Policies and Procedures.

A-6 In the event of problems with an individual District employee, a meeting can be requested between the Indian Education Parent Committee, concerned parent(s) and the Superintendent.

B. Equal Basis Assessment Policy Statement

In the spring of each year, prior to establishing the next fiscal year budget, the Bishop Unified School District will assess the educational program.

B-1 In January of each year, a meeting will be held in order to review appropriate data available to the school to determine the equal educational opportunity of Indian children attending the District. This meeting shall include the Indian Education Parent Committee, the Superintendent or designee. A Bishop Unified School District Board Member, BUSD administrators, the Tribal Council and other Tribal officials will be invited and encouraged to attend.

"Appropriate data" refers to that information which can provide verification of whether Indian children have the opportunity to participate, and do participate, in all regular core educational courses and all other educational activities at the school. This data will include, but not be limited to, general test scores; regular core educational courses, enrollment and grades; elective courses enrollment and grades; special program enrollments and grades; and numbers of Indian children participating in extracurricular activities. Any data on grades or individual test scores will not reveal the names of the respective students

- B-1 Upon reviewing the data in B-1, the Parent Advisory Committee shall compile a report of their findings to be completed no later than March 1st.
- B-2 This report shall be submitted to the Tribal Council by the first week of March. A notice shall be included in the report that Tribal Council members, the Indian Education Parent Committee and parents of Indian children are invited to present their views on its contents to the Board, along with any other comments they may have such as those listed in II.A-3 (*a and b*).
- B-3 The Indian Education Parent Committee will collect comments from Tribal Council members and the parents of Indian students. They will submit any comments to the District for possible consideration. Comments shall be presented to the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting held on the reservation.
- B-4 Both the group's report and the views and comments of Tribal Officials and parents of Indian children shall be shared with the Board of Trustees.

C. Modification of Program Policy Statement

The Bishop Unified School District will monitor its education program, and modify as needed, to ensure valid opportunities for participation of Indian children on an equal basis.

- C-1 Following the Board meeting and after reviewing the reports submitted to it, as well as the comments raised at the meeting, site administrators shall review the report referenced in B-5 above. If it is decided that corrective measures are needed, the District shall prepare a draft proposal. If administrators do not believe corrective measures are necessary, the District shall prepare and send a written statement to that effect to Tribal officials setting forth the rationale for its decision.
- C-2 A copy of the proposed IPP program modifications or draft proposals shall be sent to the District Superintendent, Board members, Tribal offices and the Indian Parent Education Committee for review and comment. Section III will be followed in the event of program changes/deletions.

Policy 3: The Bishop Unified 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. [34CFR222.94(a)(3)]

- (i) 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
- (ii) 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: The Bishop Unified School District will take the following measures to annually assess the extent to which Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the District's education programs and activities.

- a. The Bishop Unified School District will monitor Indian student participation in all academic and co-curricular activities.
- b. School District officials will review school data to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the District's educational programs on an equal basis.
- c. If it is determined that there are gaps in Indian participation in the educational programs or activities, the District will consult with the Parent Education Committee and tribal official to modify its programs in such a way as to improve Indian participation.
- d. The Bishop Unified School District will share its assessment of District funding, Indian student participation, related academic achievements and other related data will be shared with the parents of Indian children and tribal officials by mail, presentation to the Parent Education Committee, and at an open meeting of the Governing Board held once each year in the Bishop Paiute Tribal Chambers.

Policy 4: The Bishop Unified 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: During the annual organizational meeting of the Parent Education Committee, the Indian Policies and Procedures will be reviewed and revised if necessary. Once this has happened, the document will be presented to the Governing Board as well as the tribal officials and parents of Indian children for review and consideration. If necessary, the Parent Education Committee may suggest revisions at other times of the year as appropriate. Any updates will be sent to parents of Indian children and tribal officials within 30 days of adoption by the Bishop Unified School District Governing Board.

Policy 5: The Bishop Unified 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. [34CFR222.94(a)(5)]

Procedure 5: The Bishop Unified School District will at least annually respond, in writing, to comments and recommendations made by the Bishop, Big Pine, and Benton Indian Parent Education committees, tribal officials, or parents of Indian children and disseminate the responses to all parties by mail prior to the submission of the IPPs by the District.

Policy 6: The Bishop Unified School District will provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Bishop, Big Pine, and Benton tribes by mail and at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Bishop Unified School District Governing Board held one time each year in the Bishop Paiute Tribal Chambers.

I am writing regarding the Bishop Unified School District's 1920 Impact Aid application. As you may or may not know, school districts are mainly funded through property taxes. Because federal and sovereign properties such as military bases, national forests, and tribal reservations are not subject to paying property taxes, the federal government offers the Impact Aid program to offset the taxes not assessed on these properties.

Each year, school districts across the country identify students who live on federal and other non-taxable properties. In the Owens Valley, those properties are almost solely reservations, but we do have homes at some of the Edison plants that are on Forest Service property. This money is not dependent on the ethnic/racial origin of the student, only that the student lives on identified lands.

It is my job to go through a list of BUSD students each October and identify those that live on eligible property. (We use the address of record as of the first Wednesday in October, if a student has moved on or off of the reservation since that date, that does not matter for this application). I then list all parents/guardians, their address, the students' names with birthdates and grade levels. We also identify which students receive special education services. Once I have compiled all of this information, I send the verification forms to our three local area tribes; Bishop, Big Pine and Benton. The grant program requires that we get a signature from each tribe acknowledging that the addresses listed are part of the reservation and therefor, not subject to property taxes. We understand that there are family names on the list that are not Native American, but again, we still get paid for those students because the property where they live is not subject to taxes. As far as the address verification goes, you are only asked to verify the addresses to the best of your ability – no one is expected to go door to door.

This funding is vital to our schools. We receive approximately \$1,000,000 per year and that money goes to supporting various underfunded and unfunded programs such as:

Special Education	Under-funded by \$1,000,000+
Transportation	Under-funded by \$ 300,000+
Intervention	Under-funded by \$ 325,000+
Liaisons	Under-funded by \$ 100,000+
Cafeteria Services	Under-funded by \$ 150,000+
Sports & Clubs	Unfunded
AVID	Unfunded
After School Programs	Unfunded
Bus/Van replacement	Unfunded
Facilities Maintenance	Unfunded

As you can imagine, loss of the Impact Aid funding would mean a huge loss for our district and would necessitate cuts to programs. That is why your assistance in the application process is so important. Please take a look at the attached verification form. If you would like more information about the program or the process, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our deadline for submitting this application is January 31st, so in order to get everything into the system by that date, I ask that you return the signed verification back to me no later than January 21, 2020.

Thank you for your time and assistance,

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Bishop Unified School District
Chief Business Officer
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