

## **SEMINOLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs)**

It is the intent of the Seminole 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 Seminole 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 revised annually and revisions will be made within ninety (90) days of the determination that requirements are not being adequately met.

The Seminole School Board of Education encourages Indian involvement in decisions related to the expenditure of federal funds designated for Indian children and those residing on Indian lands. The Impact Aid Program provides money in lieu of local property taxes that could be collected if the land was legally designated as a tax base. The Indian Education Act provides money under Title VII to local school districts for support of Indian Education programs under the guidance of an Advisory Committee.

The Seminole School Board of Education values the cultural diversity of this community and the special contribution made by Indian people. The Board of Education encourages collaboration with the tribe and recognizes its tribal sovereignty.

The Seminole School Board of Education is committed to representing throughout the instructional program the importance of this cultural diversity and emphasizing, in particular, the importance of the Seminole Nation and all Native Americans. Furthermore, the Board is committed to providing educational programs which identify and address the unique needs of Indian children.

As part of this commitment, the Board not only encourages all members of the community to participate in decision-making which affects the education of their children, the Board seeks the involvement of Indian people.

## **POLICY 1**

The Seminole School District will disseminate by use of direct mail-outs and email, all available relevant applications, evaluations, program plans and information related to the district's education program and activities with sufficient advance notice but not later than one week in advance to allow tribal council, tribal members, Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee and parents of Indian children the opportunity to review and make recommendations. [34CFR222.94(a)(1)]. Consideration of the tribe's preference of communication will be considered through the bi-annual Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) meetings. Furthermore, the Seminole school board meetings are held the second Monday or the second Thursday of each month. The variation of meeting dates is due to whichever date is the closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The Seminole School Board always holds its meeting at the Seminole Middle School Library.

**PROCEDURE 1:** The Seminole School District will, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but not later than one week in advance of any meeting, mail, or email, will make available to Indian parents, the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC), and tribal officials a copy of the following documents:

- Impact Aid application;
- Evaluation of all education programs assisted with Impact Aid funds; and
- Plans for education programs the District intends to initiate or eliminate.

In addition, information regarding these materials will be included on the District's web page, 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 posting information about meeting times and locations in the tribal offices, on the district web page, and via email and social media. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted Board meeting. The Seminole School District will take in consideration the tribe's preferred method of communication through the IEPAC, the monthly school board meetings held the second Monday or the second Thursday of each month taking into consideration whichever is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month which is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or upon request of the tribal council to meet with the District Administrator.

**POLICY 2:** The Seminole School District will afford an opportunity for the parents of Indian children and tribal officials to provide their views on the District's educational program and activities, including recommendations on the needs of their children and on how the District may help those children realize the benefits of the educational programs and activities through the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) held biannually, the Board of Education Meetings held the second Monday or the second Thursday of each month taking into consideration whichever is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or by calling, mailing, email or make arrangements with the District Administrator to meet in person, or with the Tribal Council. [34CFR222.94(a)(2)]

- (i) The District will notify the tribal officials and parents of Indian Children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations, taking consideration of the tribe's preference for the method of communication, (on a bi-annual basis) Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) or the School Board Meetings held the second Monday or the second Thursday of each month taking into consideration whichever is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or upon request of the Tribal Council to meet with the District Administrator, and
- (ii) The District will modify the method and time for soliciting Indian views, if necessary, to ensure maximum participation of tribal members and parents of Indian children through communication from the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) meetings held on a bi-annual basis; communication through the School Board Meetings held the second Monday or the second Thursday of the month taking into consideration whichever is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or upon request of the Tribal Council to meet with the District Administrator.

**PROCEDURE 2:** The Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) of the Seminole School District will meet on a bi-annual basis; the Regular School Board Meetings that meet the second Monday or second Thursday of each month taking into consideration whichever is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or upon request of the Tribal Council to meet with the District Administrator for the purpose of addressing comments and concerns of parents of Indian children regarding the District's educational programs and activities. The meeting agendas will be posted at the Tribal Government Building, and on the school website, and all meetings will be open to the public, allowing for tribal officials as well as parents of Indian children the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations for consideration.

A school board representative is a non-voting member of the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC). This representation allows for the discussion of the needs of the students and ideas to be brought forward to both the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee as well as the School Board.

At each of the monthly meetings of the School Board, a section of time is set aside for communications from the public. This is a time to offer comments and suggestions regarding programming for Indian students. In addition, a public hearing is held to specifically address any questions regarding federal programs. Based upon suggestions, preferred methods of communication as well as ways to maximize participation from tribal officials as well as parents of Indian children will be seriously considered.

The District and Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) representatives or upon request of the Tribal Council to meet with the District Administrator will schedule meetings and also consider rescheduling meetings along with the preferred methods of communication to maximize participation from tribal officials as well as parents of Indian children to discuss ongoing programming goals.

**POLICY 3:** The Seminole 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) The Seminole School District will monitor Indian student participation in all academic and co-curricular activities. The district shall annually calculate from its records the ratio of Indian children compared to other children participating in academic and co-curricular programs.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) The District will share its assessment of district funding, Indian student participation in extra/co-curricular activities, related academic achievements and other related data with the parents of Indian children and tribal officials by posting at tribal offices and on the District's web page as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but not later than one week in advance of the meeting.
- (iv) Parents of Indian children, tribal officials and other interested parties may express their views on participation through direct communication with the school district, at any school board meeting held the second Monday or second Thursday of the month taking into consideration whichever date is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) held on a bi-annual basis; or upon request of the Tribal Council to meet with the District Administrator, communicating with the District Administrator by mail, email or in person.
- (v) If it is determined that there are gaps in Indian participation in the educational program or activities, the School Board, in consultation with the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee and tribal officials, will modify its education program in such a way as to improve Indian participation.
- (vi) Copies of annual reports will be provided to tribal officials and shared as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but no later than one week in advance of the meeting. The annual report will be made available to the parents of Indian children, Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC), Tribal Council by mail, or email with enough time to provide

comments, suggestions, feedback at the bi-annual Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee, or the Board of Education Meetings held the second Monday or second Thursday of the month taking into consideration whichever date is closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and is held at the Seminole Middle School Library; or direct communication with the Tribal Council or District Administrator by mail, email, or in person.

**PROCEDURE 3:** The Seminole 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 Seminole 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. The Seminole School District will share its assessment of district funding, Indian student participation, related academic achievements and other related data will be shared with the parent of Indian children and tribal officials by participating in committee meetings and postings on the school website.
- D. Parent of Indian children, tribal officials and other interested parties may express their views on participation through direct communication with the school district, at any school board meeting or to the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC).
- E. Copies of annual reports will be provided to tribal officials.

**POLICY 4:** The Seminole School District will modify the Indian Policies and Procedures, if necessary, based upon the results of any assessment or input described in this document. {34CRF222.94 (a) (4)}.

The School Board which meets the second Monday or second Thursday of the month taking into consideration whichever date is the closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and meets at the Seminole Middle School Library will review any modifications to the Indian Policies and Procedures recommended by the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee. The modifications will then be forwarded to the subsequent School Board meeting held at its designated time and meeting place of the approved changes and implementation.

Parents of Indian children and tribal officials and the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC) will be notified within two weeks of adoption of any changes to the Indian Policies and Procedures by the School Board by posting at tribal offices, District's web page, and the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC).

**PROCEDURE 4:** During the first meeting of each school year of the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC), the Indian Policies and Procedures will be reviewed and revised, if necessary. If revisions are suggested, the changes will be forwarded to the School Board, as well as tribal officials and the parents of Indian children for review and consideration. If necessary, the Indian Education Parent Advisory 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 Seminole School Board.

**POLICY 5:** The Seminole School District will respond at least annually in writing to comments and recommendations made by tribal officials or parents of Indian children prior to the submission of Indian Policies and Procedures by the District. [34CFR222.94(a)(5)]

**PROCEDURE 5:** The Seminole School District will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (IEPAC), tribal officials, or parents of Indian children. The responses shall be disseminated to all parties by posting at tribal offices and on the District's web page prior to the submission of the Indian Policies and Procedures by the District.

**POLICY 6:** The Seminole School District will provide a copy of the Indian Policies and Procedures annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34CFR222.94(a)(6)]

**PROCEDURE 6:** The Seminole School District will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the tribe(s) by email.

Board Approval Date

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Date