

Board of Education Seeking Feedback on Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education is looking for feedback on a land acknowledgement statement they have developed for adoption.

Here is the draft statement:

“We acknowledge that the Ann Arbor Public School District occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabek – Three Fires Confederacy, the Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi). The taking of this land was formalized, in a process alien to native cultures, by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. The Ann Arbor Public Schools recognizes that many other native peoples lived on this land at different times including the Fox, Sauk, Shawnee, Kickapoo, Miami, Musketoon, and Cherokee, many of whom were forcibly removed from their homelands. Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture and does not exist in the past or solely in a historical context: Colonialism is a current, ongoing process, and we understand our responsibility in educating students about our participation. We further recognize the ongoing relationship and dependence upon, and respect for, all living beings of earth, sky, and water. It is our responsibility to care for this land, and we honor, with our deepest gratitude, the native people who have stewarded it for generations.”

Please share your feedback with the AAPS Board of Education at boardofed@a2schools.org. We are interested in feedback on the language, when the statement should be shared, and any other thoughts community members have regarding the proposed statement.