

Indian Policies and Procedures
Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools

2025-2026 School Year

32-MI-2025-0038

It is the intent of Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools that all Indian children of school age have equal access to all programs, services and activities offered within the school district. To this end, Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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. Indian 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.

ATTESTATIONS

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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 tribes and parents of children residing on eligible Indian lands. A copy of the current policy and procedures will be attached to the FY 2026 Impact Aid application.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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 responses to tribal leaders and parents of Indian children via email in December prior to the submission of their FY 2026 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)]

Procedure 1:

The Sault Tribe prefers email as the method of communication. The school district will also use the voice calling system and notes in folders for parents with students in grades K-4. The LEA will disseminate, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes

available, but not later than 1 week in advance of any meeting, a link via email and voice notification to Indian parents and tribal officials a copy or location of copies of the following documents:

- Impact Aid FY 2026 application,
- Title IV, Part A, Grant Application,
- Evaluation of all educational programs and activities, and
- Plans for education programs the district intends to start or eliminate

In addition, information regarding these materials will be available on the district website, <https://www.saultschools.org/departments/academic-services/indian-education> and in schools.

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 on the district website, Sault Area Public Schools Calendar and in the tribal newspaper. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted Board meeting.

Parents of Indian children, tribal officials, the Indian Education Parent Committee, and any other interested persons can review assessment data to help develop or modify educational programs and services allowing for the participation of Indian students on an equal basis in the district.

Minutes from the Indian Education meetings will be posted on the District's website, <https://www.saultschools.org/departments/academic-services/indian-education> and available in all school buildings and Sault Tribe office building for all patrons and tribal officials to review. This will allow for ongoing dissemination of information.

POLICY (2): Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will provide an opportunity for the tribe and parents of Indian children 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. [34CFR222 .94(a)(2)]

Procedure 2:

The LEA surveys the parents of Indian children and tribal officials via email in September to allow the opportunity to make commentary concerning (1) the needs of their children and the ways in which they can assist them in realizing the benefits of the education programs; (2) the overall operation of the District's education program; and (3) the degree of parental

participation allowed in the same. Indian Education Parent Committee will review the survey and hear public comment during the open hearing in October.

The Indian Education Parent Committee of Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will meet on the second Monday in October for an open hearing for the purpose of addressing survey results and comments and concerns of parents of Indian children regarding the District's educational programs and activities. The meeting agendas are posted, and all meetings are open to the public allowing for tribal officials as well as parents of Indian children the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations for consideration.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools consulted with the tribe prior to the adoption of these board policies. The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians prefers all communication with the tribe and the parents of Indian children be disseminated via email.

The LEA will, to the extent possible, take the tribe's preferred method of communication (email) into consideration for all correspondence with the tribe and the parents of Indian children for consultation on these IPPs and the educational program and activities.

If participation in the survey results in a low return rate or the established meeting yield low participation by the parents of Indian children and tribal officials, Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will re-evaluate its plan and consult with parents of Indian children and tribal officials on ways to improve and enhance participation in the consultation process. Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools may re-locate meetings or times to encourage participation.

POLICY (3): Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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:

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools shall annually calculate from its records the ratio of Indian children compared to other children participating academic and co-curricular programs. Annually, the District Administrator (or a designee), administrators, staff members, the Indian Education Parent Committee, Indian parents, and tribal officials will hold a meeting to assess

the extent of Indian children's participation in the educational program. At such meeting, attendees will be presented information to evaluate all school programs and Tribal/parental commentary to determine the extent of equality of Indian children's participation with other children.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will disseminate the results of the assessment of Indian participation to parents of Indian children and tribal officials within two weeks of publication by email but not later than one week in advance of the annual meeting to discuss the assessment.

Parents of Indian children or tribal officials may comment in public, in writing or via email on the results at regularly scheduled school board meetings, Indian Education Parent Committee meetings, directly to the school district by email or writing. In addition, parents of Indian children and tribal officials may comment during any regular board meeting

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education established an ad hoc committee of Indian parents, tribal officials, and staff members to assist in the modification of educational programs in order to ensure the equal participation of Indian children. Such a committee shall make recommendations to the Board as to any needed modifications.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education shall give deference to the suggestions of the committee in voting on proposed modifications.

POLICY (4): Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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:

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education has scheduled meetings in December and April to discuss the content of the IPPs and educational program and activities. Parent of Indian children and tribal officials are notified via email regarding these meetings and their ability to submit comment. In addition, the parents of Indian children and tribal officials may make recommend changes to the IPPs or the educational program at any regularly scheduled Indian Education Parent meeting, school board meeting, or in direct communication with the school district.

The Indian Education Parent Committee takes all public comments on changes to the IPPs, evaluates them and proposes changes to the Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education. Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education will vote on whether or not to adopt the recommended revisions to these IPPs.

Any changes by Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools Board of Education will become effective immediately upon adoption.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will disseminate copies of the revised IPPs to the tribe and parents of Indian children within 30 days of adoption by the Board of Education.

POLICY (5): Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools 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. [34CRF222 .94(a)(5)]

Procedure 5:

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the Indian Education Parent Committee, tribal officials, or parents of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to all parties by email or for pick up at the Sault Tribe office building.

POLICY (6): Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will provide a copy of the IPPs annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34CR F222.94 (a)(6)]

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Sault Tribe by email.

Board Approval Date: January 13, 2025

For the purpose of this document, *Tribal Officials*, means the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Headquarters, 523 Ashmun St, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.