SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
Independent School District 833
7362 East Point Douglas Rd S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
sowashco.org | 651-425-6300

908.1 INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. PURPOSE

A. South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo Schools) supports Indigenous land acknowledgement as an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and to honor the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. The land acknowledgement statement is a living celebration of Indigenous communities and recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. At School Board meetings, district committee/advisory meetings and other district gatherings, the following land acknowledgement will occur:

   a. "We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the land of the Mdewakanton (Mid-ah-wah-kah-ton) Dakota people. Mdewakanton means, "dwellers of the spirit lake."

B. It is within the responsibility of SoWashCo Schools, as an academic institution, to disseminate knowledge about Indigenous peoples and their history with this land. SoWashCo Schools works to build relationships with Indigenous students and families through academic pursuits and historical recognition.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

A. At School Board meetings, district committee/advisory meetings and other district gatherings, it is the responsibility of non-Indigenous facilitators to open with the SoWashCo Schools Land Acknowledgement (as stated in section 2A).
B. Meeting facilitators may expand beyond the land acknowledgement statement and provide meaningful educational experiences by providing "beyond land acknowledgement" activities and/or information.
C. The Superintendent will review Policy 908.1 -Indigenous Land Acknowledgment in accordance with the district policy review schedule.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. § 1996 et seq.)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.)
- Minn. Stat. § 3.922 et seq.
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.03, subd. 1(b)(2)

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POLICY ADOPTED: