

INDIAN TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT

The following policy relates to tribal and parental involvement in the education of children residing on Indian lands within this school district and is hereby approved by the Bethel Board of Education in regular session and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the board of education.

1. Children living on Indian land participate in school programs on an equal basis with all other children attending school in the Bethel Public Schools. No teacher or program director is to exclude or limit participation in any district activity on the basis of race. The Bethel Public Schools will review school data and comments from tribal officials and parents to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the educational program on an equal basis. An annual statistical study will be conducted to determine the extent Indian children do participate on an equal basis and modifications will be made in the educational programs, as needed, to allow equal participation of all children.
2. Pertinent program policies/plans, applications, and evaluations will be disseminated through one or more of the following ways:
 - A. Mail notices in advance to tribal leaders and send handouts home to parents of Indian children requesting their participation in meetings regarding education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874.
 - B. Inform the Indian community of events in education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874 through student handouts and/or the student newspaper and make greater use of newspapers serving the Bethel Public Schools area.
 - C. Mail copies of an information summary sheet describing the Public Law 81-874 application and evaluations, program plans, and other information concerning education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874 to the tribe and send copies home with children to all parents of Indian children, when these items become available, with a note saying that upon request to the superintendent/principal, copies of the original documents listed above will be provided.
3. By scheduling through the superintendent's office a place on the agenda of any open meeting of the board of education, a tribe, or their designee, parent, or group of parents, concerned with the educational opportunity of any student or group of students in the Bethel Public Schools may:
 - A. Present views regarding applications.
 - B. Make recommendations concerning the needs of their children.
 - C. Provide input into the planning and development of the educational program of the district.
 - D. Present views on the education program and its operation.

INDIAN TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT (Cont.)

In addition to the above, the Bethel Public Schools will:

- A. Provide notice of any annual meetings regarding education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874 to the Indian community and to the tribe.
 - B. Work with the tribal leaders to seek input from the Indian parents, tribe, and other Indians in the community by using available forms of communication and cooperation to seek and encourage such input.
 - C. Hold all meetings involving or discussing education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874 in the school auditorium or a classroom of sufficient size to accommodate all Indian parents who might wish to attend.
 - D. Provide ample time for discussion of education programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874.
 - E. Invite comments and suggestions from the Indian community with regard to educational programs assisted with funds provided under Public Law 81-874 by holding as many meetings with the tribe and Indian community as are necessary to ensure that the needs of the Indian community are received and considered.
 - F. LEA officials will review school data and comments from tribal officials and parents to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the educational program on an equal basis.
4. A public hearing will be held on _____ [insert day of week and month] at which parents of children living on Indian land and/or tribal officials may discuss the current status of school programs, desired directions for future development for board consideration, and any changes needed in the Indian policies and procedures. In addition to the above, Bethel Public Schools will:
- A. Encourage staff members of the LEA to elicit input regarding the general educational program from Indian parents and tribal leaders, and to submit such suggestions to the administration for consideration and evaluation.
 - B. Encourage staff members to use their best efforts in establishing a more amicable relationship with tribal leaders and parents of Indian children to elicit voluntary input.
 - C. Recommendations of the tribe will be considered and written response will be submitted.