

Indian Policies and Procedures  
La Conner School District  
2023 Calendar Year

It is the intent of the La Conner 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 La Conner School District will consult with local tribal officials and parents of native children in the planning and development of Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs), general education programs, and activities.

These 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**

The La Conner School District 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 policies and procedures was attached to the FY 2023 Impact Aid application.

The La Conner School District 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 prior to the submission of their FY 2023 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 District Superintendent/designee will, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but not later than one week in advance of any meeting, provide native parents and tribal officials, a copy of the following documents:

- Impact Aid FY 2023 application;
- Evaluation of all educational programs; 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 website and available in official District publications.

Parents of native 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. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted Board meeting.

The La Conner School District will disseminate information and seek timely input regarding the following programs on its educational program (including, but not limited to): Title I Part A, Title I Part C, Title I Part D, Title II Part A, Title III Part A, Title IV Part A, Title IV, Part B, Title V Part B subpart 2, Title VI Part A subpart 1, Title VII-Impact Aid programs, Johnson O'Malley programming.

The completed applications, evaluations, and program planning will be made available to parents of native children and tribal officials, and a summary will be prepared and disseminated in advance of public hearings held at least twice annually to afford all interested parties the opportunity to review the documents with sufficient time to provide thoughtful input at the public meetings. These hearings will be publicly advertised by the Superintendent/designee to allow all interested parties to attend. In addition, representatives from the District and Native Parent Advisory Committee will schedule meetings with the Swinomish Education Sub-Committee to seek input.

Parents of Indian children, tribal officials, the Swinomish Education Sub-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 Native Parent Advisory Committee meetings will be posted on the District's website for all patrons and Tribal officials to review. This will allow for ongoing dissemination of information.

**POLICY (2):** The La Conner School District will provide an opportunity for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and parents of native 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)].

Notify tribes and the parents of native children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations, considering the tribe's preference for method of communication, and modify the method of and time for soliciting native parent views, if necessary, to ensure the maximum participation of tribes and parents of native children.

Procedure 2:

In order to allow native parents and tribal officials 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, the Board's designee will annually present parents of native children and Tribal officials a request for input and recommendations and will thereafter hold an annual Board meeting where such commentary may be reviewed by native parents, Tribal officials, and the Board. The Swinomish Education Sub-Committee will advise on the most appropriate way to gather such research so as to be respectful of Swinomish culture and history, as well as who has the right to the information.

Native parents and Tribal officials will be given notice of any and all meetings addressing the above-referred research to be disseminated as to the location of legally posted Board notices. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted Board meeting.

If participation in the research results in a low return rate or the established meeting yield low participation by the parents of native children and tribal officials, the La Conner School District will re-evaluate its plan and consult with the Swinomish Education Sub-Committee on ways to improve and enhance participation in the consultation process. The La Conner School District may relocate meetings or times to encourage participation.

**EXAMPLE:** The Native Parent Advisory Committee of the La Conner School District will meet at least three times per year for the purpose of addressing comments and concerns of parents of native 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 native children the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations for consideration.

In addition, a Parent Advisory Committee will meet at least three times per year for the purpose of engaging all interested parents in discussions about school programs.

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

At each of the monthly school board meetings, a section of time is set aside for communications from the public. This time may be used to offer comments and suggestions regarding programming for native students. In addition, two public hearings will be scheduled annually which are specifically devoted to addressing 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 native children will be seriously considered.

The District, Native American Advisory Committee, and Parent Advisory Committee representatives will report the result of their meetings with representatives from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to discuss ongoing programming goals.

**POLICY (3):** The La Conner 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)].

Share relevant information related to Indian children's participation in the LEA's education program and activities with tribes and parents of native children; and

Allow tribes and parents of native children the opportunity and time to review and comment on whether native children participate on an equal basis with non-native children.

Procedure 3:

The La Conner School District will take the following measures to assess annually the extent to which native children participate on an equal basis with non-native children in the District's education program and activities.

The La Conner School District will monitor native student participation in all academic and extra-curricular activities.

School district officials in partnership with Swinomish Education Department employees will review school data to assess the extent of native children's participation in the District's educational programs on an equal basis.

The La Conner School District will share its assessment of district funding, native student participation, related academic achievements and other related data with the parents of native children and tribal officials at Native Parent Advisory Committee meetings, annual consultation, and through the Swinomish Education Sub-Committee.

Parents of native 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, through tribal committees, subcommittees, or employees, or to the Native Parent Advisory Committee. Copies of annual reports will be provided to tribal officials.

The La Conner School District shall annually calculate from its records the ratio of native children compared to other children participating academic and co-curricular programs. Annually, the District Superintendent/designee, building and program administrators, staff members, the Native Parent Advisory Committee, native parents, and Tribal officials will hold a meeting to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the educational programs. At such meeting, attendees will analyze the school data and Tribal/parental commentary to determine the extent of equality of native children's participation with other children.

The La Conner School District will disseminate the results of the assessment of native participation to parents of native children and tribal officials within two weeks of publication by posting on the District website and via email care of the Swinomish Education Director.

Parents of native children or tribal officials may comment on the results at regularly scheduled school board meetings, Native Parent Advisory Committee meetings, directly to the school district by phone, email, letter, or an in-person conversation with the superintendent or other administrator. In addition, parents of native children and tribal officials may comment through an approved research process requesting information concerning their views as to the extent of native children's participation in educational programs on an equal basis with other children.

The La Conner School Board will accept recommendations from the Native Parent Advisory Committee to assist in the modification of educational programs in order to ensure the equal participation of native children. Such committee shall make recommendations to the Board as to any needed modifications. The La Conner School Board shall give deference to the suggestions of the committee in voting on proposed modifications.

The La Conner School District shall annually analyze participation rates of native children compared to other children in all aspects of the educational program and school sponsored activities.

The La Conner School District's Superintendent and school staff, in conjunction with the Native Parent Advisory Committee, will review annual survey data and comments gathered from families and students.

The results of the data and comments will be shared with all interested parties in the district. In addition, comments and/or suggestions brought forth from these conversations will become part of the Committee's approved minutes. These data will be utilized to develop appropriate supports for various programs.

During the annual public hearings, the school district will gather information relating to native children's participation in the LEA's education programs and activities. This information will also be made available to the parents of native children, tribal officials, and the Native Parent Advisory Committee via posting to the District website and by mail to Tribal officials.

If it is determined that there are gaps in native participation in the educational program or activities, the La Conner School Board in consultation with the Native Parent Advisory Committee and tribal officials, will modify its education program in such a way as to improve Indian participation.

**POLICY (4):** The La Conner School District 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:

During a meeting of the Native Parent Advisory Committee and the parent Advisory Committee, the Indian Policies and Procedures will be reviewed and revised if necessary. Once this has happened, the document will be forwarded to the La Conner School Board as well as the tribal officials, beginning with the Education Sub-Committee, and parents of native children for review and consideration. If necessary, the Native 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 two weeks of adoption by the La Conner School Board.

The La Conner School Board recommends that the Native Parent Advisory Committee and the Swinomish Education Sub-Committee annually review the components the Indian Policies and Procedures to ensure that they meet federal regulatory and statutory requirements, as well as to provide opportunities for local advising and oversight.

The Native Parent Advisory Committee members shall serve as a task force to review the meaningfulness of native input, to review the extent of opportunity for native input and to review the District's response to native commentary. The Committee will review the effectiveness of the District's methods of gathering the input of native parents and Tribal members; calculate the number of native suggestions which were actually implemented; permit native parents and Tribal officials to suggest more effective ways of communicating their views. If necessary, the Native Parent Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the Board to modify its policies and procedures.

The La Conner School District will consider recommendations to modify policies and procedures at a regular board meeting if the Native Parent Advisory or Parent Advisory Committee indicates such modification is necessary.

The La Conner School District will notify parents of native children, tribal officials, and the general public of any changes to the Indian Policies and Procedures by posting changes to the District website and by mail or email to Tribal offices via the Swinomish Education Director.

**POLICY (5):** The La Conner School District 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:** The La Conner School District will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the Native Parent Advisory Committee, Parent Advisory Committee, tribal officials, and parents of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to all parties by posting the information on the District website and by mail to Tribal offices prior to the submission of the IPPs by the District.

**POLICY (6):** The La Conner School District will provide a copy of the IPPs annually to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. [34CR F222.94 (a)(6)].

The La Conner School District will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Swinomish tribe by mail or email. To have ongoing dialog about these policies and all matters concerning tribal students, the Swinomish Tribe, and La Conner School District will have at least three official consultations per year.

ADOPTED, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Susie Deyo, President

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Lynette Cram, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Agen, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Bourgeois, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Wilbur, Director

**Attested to:**

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Will Nelson, Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Board

