

Blackwater Community School
Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter, Inc.
INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (IPPs)
School Year 2021 – 2022
(Revised & Approved on February 11th, 2021)

Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter, Inc., which operates and does business as Blackwater Community School and which shall be referred to herein as “BWCS”, intends that all Native American children of school age have equal access to all programs, services, and activities offered at BWCS, which is located in Blackwater, Arizona, within the Gila River Indian Community. To this end, BWCS 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 will be made within ninety days of the determination that requirements are not being adequately met.

ATTESTATIONS

BWCS attests that it has established 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 2019 Impact Aid application.

BWCS attests that it has provided a copy of written responses to comments, concerns, and recommendations received from tribal leaders and parents of Native children through the IPPs consultation process and disseminated these responses to tribal leaders and parents of Indian children prior to the submission of their FY 2021 Impact Aid application.

INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Gila River Indian Community (“GRIC’s) preferred method of communication is via email and U.S. mail.

The following Indian policies and procedures become effective upon the Board’s approval.

Policy 1: The School will disseminate relevant applications, evaluations, program plans, and information related to the School’s education program and activities with sufficient advance notice to allow tribes and parents of Native children the opportunity to review and make recommendations. (34 CFR §222.94(a)(1))

Tribal officials and parents of Native American children shall be provided an opportunity to comment on the participation of Native American children on an equal basis in all programs and activities offered by the BWCS. (34 CFR §222.94(b)(1).

Procedure 1:

1.1 The completed applications, evaluations, and program planning will be disseminated to the parents of Indian children via email/regular mail, tribal officials, and the Native American Parent Advisory Committee via a packet sent home with the students and a summary will be prepared and disseminated at least five (5) business days in advance of any public hearings to be held twice a year in August and March 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 publically advertised by placing a flyer at all District Service Centers served by the School, by posting on the School's website, and via flyer being sent home with students to allow all interested parents to attend. In addition, representatives from the School and the Parent Advisory Committee will schedule other meetings as necessary to seek input.

1.2 In addition, information regarding these materials will be included in any School newsletter, as appropriate.

1.3 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 via posting at the District Services Centers, on the School's website, and to the Tribe via email.

1.4 Parents of Indian children, tribal officials, the Native American Parent Advisory 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.

1.5 Minutes from the Indian Education meetings will be posted on the School's website for all patrons and tribal officials to review. This will allow for ongoing dissemination of information.

Policy 2: BWCS will provide an opportunity for the GRIC and parents of Indian children to provide their views on the School's educational program and activities, including recommendations on the needs of their children and on how the School may help those children realize the benefits of the educational programs and activities. (34 C.F.R. §222.94(a)(2)).

Procedure 2:

2.1 The School surveys the parents of Indian children and tribal officials notice sent home with the student and email in the fall to allow them 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 School's education program; and (3) the degree of parental participation allowed in the same. The BWCS Board will thereafter hold an annual Board meeting in which such commentary may be reviewed by Indian parents, tribal officials, and the Board.

2.2 The Parent Advisory Committee of BWCS will meet at least twice per year, once in each semester, for the purpose of addressing 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. School administration will notify twice a year to parents of Indian Children, tribal officials and the public via email/regular mail of any suggestions and changes (if any).

2.3 The School will, to the extent possible, take the Tribe's preferred method of communication 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.

2.3 At each of the regular monthly BWCS Board meetings,, a section of time is set aside for communications from the public. This is a time to offer comments and suggestions regarding programming for Indian students. In addition, two public hearings are scheduled August and March, 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 Indian children will be seriously considered.

Policy 3: BWCS will annually assess the extent to which Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the School's education program and activities. (34 C.F.R. §222.94(a)(3))

- (i) Share relevant information related to Indian children's participation in the School'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:

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

3.1 The School will monitor Indian student participation in all academic and co-curricular activities such as access to Native Language based programs, traditional gardening farming, access to core programs in Reading, Math and Science classes .

3.2 School officials will review School data to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the School's educational programs on an equal basis.

3.3 The School will share its assessment of School funding, Indian student participation, related academic achievements, and other related data will be shared with the parents of Indian children and tribal officials by flyer taken home by student and email, respectively at least three (3) business days in advance of any meeting to discuss the extent to which Indian children participate with non-Indian children.

3.4 Parents of Indian children, tribal officials, and other interested parties may express their views on participation at any time through direct communication with the School, at any Board meeting, or to the Parent Advisory Committee.

3.5 Copies of all annual reports will be emailed to tribal officials at least three (3) business days in advance of any meeting to discuss the assessment and any related modifications to the educational programs or activities to improve Indian participation. Summaries of assessments will be sent hom to the parents of Indian children with their student at least three (3) business days in advance of any meeting to discuss the assessment and any related modifcaitions to the educational program or activities to improve Indian particiaption. Full copies of the assessments will be provided to parents upon their request to the School.

Policy 4. BWCS will modify the IPPs if necessary, based upon the results of any assessment or input described in this document. (34 C.F.R. §222.94(a)(4).

Procedure 4:

4.1 There are Parent Advisory Committee meetings scheduled in August and March to discuss the contents of the IPPs and educational program and activities. Parents of Indian children and tribal officials are notified by a flyer taken home by the student or email, respectively, regarding these meettings and their ability to comment. In addition, parents of Indian children and tribal officials may make recommend changes to the IPPs or the eudcational program at any regularly scheduled Parent Advisory Committee meeting, Board meetitng, or in direct communications with the School itself.

4.2 The Board will evaluate all recommendations for changes to these IPPs.

4.3 The Board will decide on all recommended revisions to these IPPs.

4.4 Any changes will become effective upon their adoption by the Board.

4.5 BWCS will notify tribal officials by email of any changes to these IPPs within thirty (30) days of adoption, via submission of a copy of the revised IPPs

to the Tribe. A summary of any changes will be sent home with students to the parents of Indian children within thirty (30) days of any changes being adopted. And, the Board will send a revised copy of the IPPs to the Impact Aid Program at the US Department of Education within thirty (30) days of adoption by the Board.

Policy 5: BWCS 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 School. (34 C.F.R. §222.94(a)(5))

Procedure 5:

5.1 The School will respond in writing to the comments, questions, and concerns received through out the consultation process. In the event that the school district receives multiple comments on the same topic area, the Blackwater Community School will summarize these comments and respond to them as a group within 10 working days after summary is completed.

5.2 The School will respond to comments, questions, and concerns received through the consultation process in writing no later than November of each year.

5.3 The responses to the comments, concerns, and recommendations through the consultation will be disseminated to the Tribe via email, regular mail and flyers. BWCS will disseminate a summary of the responses to the parents of Indian children via a memorandum sent home with the students.

Policy 6: BWCS will provide a copy of the IPPs annually to the affected tribe or tribes. (34 C.F.R. §222.94(a)(6)).

Procedure 6:

6.1 The School will provide a copy of the current IPPs annually to the Tribe via email and U.S. Mail.

APPROVED BY:



BWCS Board President

02/11/2021

Dated

(revised & Approved at a Publicly held Board of Trustees Special Meeting on February 11, 2021)