



Peñasco Independent School District

Melissa Sandoval, Superintendent

INDIAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (IPP) FOR PEÑASCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SY 23-24

Peñasco Independent School District (PISD) is committed to ensuring that all Native American Indian children of school age have equal access to educational programs, services, and activities offered in the school district. The Peñasco Independent School District will consult with Picuris Pueblo tribal officials, hereby known as "the Tribe", and parents of Indian children in the planning and development of Indian Policies and Procedures (IPP), general education programs, and activities. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually. Revisions will be made within 90 days of the determination that requirements are not being adequately met in accordance with Policy 4, Procedure 4 outlined in this document.

ATTESTATIONS

The Peñasco Independent Schools attests that it has established Indian Policies and Procedures (IPP) as required in section 7004 of the Impact Aid Law for any children claimed who reside on eligible Indian lands. A copy of the current policies and procedures was attached to the FY 23-24 Impact Aid Application.

Indian Policies and Procedures

The following Indian Policies and Procedures become effective upon school board approval.

Policy 1: The Local Education Agency (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 Peñasco Independent School District Superintendent and/or designee and the Indian Education Parent Committee (IEPC) and district staff will provide opportunities to meet with the Picuris Pueblo officials, parents of Native American Indian children and the Picuris Education Committee.

Peñasco School Board of Education

Dorthy Lopez-Sherman, Board President
Dr. Carlos Abeyta, Board Vice-President
Amanda Bissell, Board Secretary
Patricia Martinez, Board Member
Gwen Simbolo, Board Member



575-587-2502
575-587-2513 (fax)



P.O. Box 520
Peñasco, NM 87553



www.penascoisd.com

The purpose of these meetings shall be *to inform and to address comments and concerns regarding Native American Indian children's equal participation in the academic programs of the Peñasco Independent School District*. The Superintendent/designee will, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but no later than one week in advance of any meeting, mail to Indian parents and Tribal officials a copy of the following documents:

1. The Indian Education Parent Committee periodic meetings.
2. PISD Board of Education public hearing on Title VIII Impact Aid application and Indian Policies and Procedures reviews or revisions.
3. Evaluation of all educational programs
4. Plans for education programs the PISD intends to initiate or eliminate.
5. PISD Board of Education public hearing on any other new or continuing Indian Education programs.

Traditional ceremony participation

The Peñasco Independent schools recognize the importance of cultural practices as it pertinent to Native American communities. We understand the cultural diversity and importance for students to participate in traditional ceremonies and acknowledge that student participation in traditional ceremonies may take place several days and could involve an extended absence from school. The days students are participating in ceremonies will not be counted as absent because PISD recognizes that cultural teaching and learning transpire.

Picuris Pueblo will provide the district with a list of all Picuris students who attend PISD. This list will be shared with principals, secretaries, and teachers on the days below, those students will have absences excused with no note required. On floating ceremonial days, Picuris Pueblo will send a letter to the school asking for students to be excused once the ceremony is scheduled.

Traditional ceremonies (according to Picuris Calendar*) and recognized by PISD:

- January 3- Picuris "New Year"
- January 6- Reyes Day
- January 25- St. Paul's Day
- February 2 - Candelaria Day
- August 8-10 - Picuris Feast Day
- September (3rd or 4th MOnday of the month) Harvest Dance
- November 1 - All Souls Day
- Floating ceremonial winter and spring days will vary according to Picuris traditions

Furthermore, the Superintendent/designee will meet with the new Picuris Pueblo leadership and the Picuris Pueblo officials will meet with new Board Members after elections. Other meetings may be requested by the IEPC, Picuris Pueblo officials and parents of Native American Indian children.

All information regarding these materials and meetings will be included in the District's communication to parents such as web page posts and newsletters, if appropriate.

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 in the questionnaire to be disseminated in the fall. The location, date and time of any meeting described above shall be posted in the same manner as a legally posted Board meeting.

The Peñasco Independent School District will disseminate information and seek timely input regarding the following **federal and state** 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, subpart1, Title VII-Impact Aid programs, Johnson O'Malley programming.

Completed applications, evaluations, and program planning will be made available to parents of Indian children, Tribal officials, and the IEPC including a prepared summary to be disseminated at least three days in advance of public hearings held at the Central Office Board Room on the third Tuesday of each Month to afford all

interested parties have the opportunity to review documents with sufficient time to provide thoughtful input at the public meetings. These public hearings will be publicly advertised by posting meeting agendas as described in our Open Meetings Resolution to allow all interested parties to attend. In addition, representatives from the District and IEPC will schedule meetings with the District Leadership Team to seek input.

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

Minutes from the IEPC 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 Peñasco Independent 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 how the District may help those children realize the benefits of the educational programs and activities. [CFR222.94(a)(2)]

Procedure 1

In order to allow Indian parents and tribal officials to make commentary concerning the following:

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.
4. Communication between teachers and parents

PISD will provide teacher contact information to the Picuris Education division and the tribal government along with a communication flowchart. In order to provide effective instruction to Picuris students, teachers must **first** communicate directly with parents and document the form of communication. If a situation arises where parents are not responding to communication efforts, the PISD Indian Education Coordinator and tribal liaison will contact the parents in person. If the PISD staff cannot contact the parents, the Picuris education Division staff will contact the parents.

The PISD Board of Education will deliver to parents of Indian children and tribal officials a questionnaire requesting their input and recommendations in the fall.

Thereafter an annual Board of Education meeting where Indian parents, Tribal officials, and the Board may review such commentary.

Indian parents and Tribal officials will be given notice of any and all meetings by including in the above-referred questionnaire to be disseminated in the fall semester information 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 survey results in a low return rate or the established meetings yield low participation by the parents of Indian children and tribal officials, PISD will re-evaluate its plan and consult with the IEPC and tribal officials on ways to improve and enhance participation in the consultation process. PISD may relocate meetings, times, or meeting format (i.e., online meetings-Zoom/google meets/teleconference) to encourage participation.

The Indian Education Parent Committee of Peñasco Independent Schools will meet monthly for the purposes 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.

At each of the monthly school 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 in January and August which are specifically devoted to addressing questions regarding all 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.

Information will be included in student handbooks/enrollment packets regarding opportunities to provide input to the District.

District and IEPC representatives will schedule meetings with Picuris Pueblo to discuss ongoing programming goals.

Policy 3

The Peñasco Independent 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)]

Procedure 1

Peñasco Independent School District will take the following measures to 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.

- PISD will monitor Indian student participation in all academic and co-curricular activities.
- School district officials will review school data to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the District's educational programs on an equal basis.
- PISD will share its assessment of district funding, Indian student participation, related academic achievements and other related data will be shared with the parents of Indian children and tribal officials by (mail, email, posting at tribal offices, etc.)
- Parents of Indian 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 or to the Indian Education Parent Committee.
- Copies of annual reports will be provided to tribal officials.

The Peñasco Independent Schools shall annually calculate from its records the ratio of Indian children compared to other children participating in academic and co-curricular programs.

Annually, the PISD Superintendent (or designee), administrators, staff members, the IEPC, Indian parents, and Picuris Tribal officials will hold a meeting after reviewing the annual report to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the educational program. At such meetings attendees will analyze the school

data and record commentary to determine the extent of equality of Indian children's participation with other children.

Peñasco Independent 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 posting at tribal offices and through posting on the school's website and Facebook page.

Parents of Indian children or tribal officials may comment on the results at regularly scheduled school board meetings, IEPC meetings, directly to the school district by phone, email, etc. In addition, parents of Indian children and tribal officials may comment in the fall questionnaire requesting information concerning their views as to the extent of Indian children's participation in educational programs on an equal basis with other children.

If the assessment shows that there are gaps in Indian participation in the educational program or activities, the School Board will establish a task force or 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.

Policy 4

Peñasco Independent Schools will modify IPP if necessary, based upon the results of any assessment or input described in this document. [34CFR222.94(a)(4)]

Procedure 1

The IEPC will review the Indian Policies and Procedures annually and revise if necessary. If revision is recommended, the document will be forwarded to the Peñasco Independent School District's Board of Education, as well as the tribal officials, and parents of Indian children for review and consideration. If necessary, the Indian Education 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 Peñasco Independent Schools School Board.

Policy 5

The Peñasco Independent 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 IPP by the LEA. [34CFR222.94(a)(5)]

Procedure 1

The Peñasco Independent Schools will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the Indian Education Committee, tribal officials, or parents of Indian Children, and disseminate the responses to all parties by mail and posting at tribal offices prior to the submission of the IPP by the District.

Policy 6

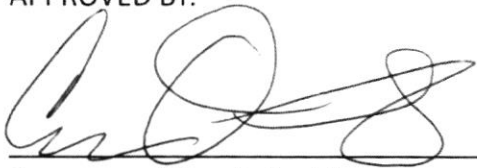
Peñasco Independent Schools will provide a copy of the IPP annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34CFR222.94(a)(6)]

Procedure 1

Peñasco Independent Schools will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Picuris Pueblo by hand delivery to the tribal office. An electronic copy will also be provided.

The Peñasco Independent School District Indian Policies and Procedures were reviewed and approved at a duly called school board meeting on the 17th of January 2023.

APPROVED BY:




Governor of Picuris Pueblo

1/10/24
Dated



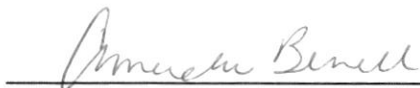
Indian Education Parent Committee Chairman/Member

1/15/2024
Dated



Superintendent, Peñasco Independent School District

1/16/24
Dated



Board President, Peñasco Independent School District

1/16/2024
Dated