

ASSURING PARTICIPATION OF THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

It is the policy of the Ledyard Board of Education that there shall be no discrimination in the participation of students in any program of the Ledyard Public Schools. This policy (referred to as the "Indian Policy and Procedures" in federal laws and regulations) applies fully to children living on Indian lands within the attendance areas of Ledyard Public Schools. To this end, the following specific procedures shall be followed by school personnel:

1. Pertinent program plans, objectives and evaluation procedures will be made available to parents/guardians and tribal officials. A copy of the Impact Aid Application, evaluations, and program plans will be mailed to tribal leaders when available. A summary of the above items will be sent home to the parents/guardians with a notation that these items, in full, will be sent upon request.
2. School officials will annually assess the extent to which Native American children participate in school programs; and using standard assessment tools, determine their success as compared to the other school populations. The resulting data will be made available to parents/guardians and tribal officials.
3. Should the data suggest that the Native American children are not benefiting equally from the education program, tribal officials will be asked to appoint three parents/guardians to serve with three school staff members on a committee whose task it will be to make recommendations for changes to the existing program which may help resolve the problem.
4. School officials will hold a meeting of parents/guardians of Native American children to review the school program and to hear comments and concerns. School officials will review the input thus obtained and, if necessary, recommend to the Board of Education modifications to this policy based on this review for action at a regular or special Board meeting.
5. School officials use the data gathered in numbers 3 and 4 to determine if and how the school program might be modified to improve its benefits to the Native American children.
6. Modifications which are proposed by school officials as a result of number 5 will be submitted to the study committee and through them, to the parents/guardians and tribal officials for comments prior to putting the changes into effect.
7. Annually the committee of parents/guardians and school staff cited in number 3 will assess the impact their suggestions and those of their constituents had on modifications to the school program.
8. A copy of the Impact Aid Application, as it applies to the Native American children, will be sent to the tribal officials annually for their information.

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9. Annually, at the request of tribal officials, the Board of Education will schedule a portion of a meeting for the purpose of discussing with parents/guardians and tribal officials the parents/guardians' concerns regarding the educational programs of the Ledyard Public Schools, as they affect Native American children.

Additionally, the Superintendent, and/or her/his designee, shall invite and hold meetings with Indian parents and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Leaders to:

- Identify a prioritized list of educational needs of Indian children.
- Discuss any changes to the educational program.
- Solicit comments from Indian parents and tribal leaders on whether Indian children participate on an equal basis with non-Indian children in the educational programs and activities provided by Ledyard Public Schools.
- Ledyard Public Schools shall disseminate relevant applications, evaluations, program plans, and information related to the educational programs of the District in sufficient time to allow the tribe and parents of Indian children an opportunity to review the materials and make recommendations on the needs of the Indian children and how the Ledyard Board of Education may help those children realize the benefits of Ledyard Public Schools educational programs and activities. This information shall be disseminated by email, regular mail for those without email/computers, and/or School Messenger, a digital phone call.
- Meetings shall be held two times per year to review current education programs and offerings at the Mashantucket Pequot Administrative Office at a mutually agreeable time. Invitations to the meetings indicating the time and location shall be sent directly to Indian parents or guardians and to Mashantucket Pequot tribal leaders. The invitation shall be sent by email, regular mail for those without email, and/or School Messenger, the Ledyard Schools digital phone call system.

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. 7704 – *Policies and Procedures Relating to Children Residing on Indian Lands.*

34 CFR Part 222 – *Impact Aid Programs, Subpart G – Special Provisions for Local Educational Agencies That Claim Children Residing on Indian Lands.*

Policy reviewed for federal compliance: September 17, 2014

Revised: November 15, 2017

Reviewed and Approved: December 6, 2018

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut