EDUCATION OF NATIVE/INDIAN CHILDREN

NATIVE AMERICAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This statement of policies and procedures has been adopted by the Sitka School District to ensure that standards set forth in 34 CFR 223 governing local educational agencies “claiming children on Indian lands” for assistance under Title VIII Impact Aid, Section 3, have been met.

I. The Sitka School District will give parents of all Native American children and tribal officials:

A. The opportunity to comment on the participation of Native American children on an equal basis in the educational program.

B. Adequate time and opportunity to present their views concerning the application, evaluations, and program plans regarding Title VIII Impact Aid.

C. The opportunity to provide consultation and to be involved in the planning and development of educational programs assisted with Title VIII Impact Aid funds.

D. The opportunity to make recommendations and present their views including but not limited to:

   1. The needs of their children.

   2. The ways they can assist their children to realize the benefits to be derived from the educational programs assisted with Title VIII Impact Aid funds.

   3. Their overall views on the Sitka School District’s educational program, including its operation and the parental participation allowed.

i. The Sitka School District shall meet the above provisions by:

A. Placing the issue of equal educational opportunity for Native Americans residing on Native American lands on the agenda of the regularly scheduled March School Board meeting each year. The Sitka School District Native American Policies and Procedures will be reviewed at that time.

B. Notifying parents in advance and encouraging their participation in
meetings of the Sitka School Board, parent advisory committees, ad hoc task forces, and advisory committees.

C. Requesting reports and recommendations at least annually from Sitka Native Education Program (SNEP) relative to equal education opportunities as in ii A.

ii. The Sitka School District will disseminate the following materials to parents of Native American children claimed on the Title VIII Impact Aid application and tribal officials:

A. The title VIII Impact Aid application will be distributed either by mail or hand delivery by Sitka School District officials.

B. Evaluations of programs assisted with Title VIII Impact Aid funds and plans for the initiation/elimination of educational programs will be distributed by mail or hand delivery at least one month prior to Sitka School Board action on those issues.

C. A copy of the Sitka School District Native American Policies and Procedures will be given to the parents of Native American children claimed on the Title VIII Impact Aid application and to tribal officials in the Sitka School District.

iii. The Sitka School District will conduct an annual review to assess the extent to which Native American children participate in the educational programs of the School District on an equal basis. The review will include comments from parents of Native American children and from tribal officials; statistical data regarding the number and types of courses offered; pupil/teacher ratios; and, per pupil expenditures from the General Fund. This data will be used by the District in planning and reported to parents of Native American children and tribal officials.

iv. The Sitka School District will modify its educational program, when necessary, to allow Native American children to participate on an equal basis.

A. Each year, the District shall request that SNEP conduct a survey/needs assessment of Native American parents and students regarding the issue of equal participation of Native American children in the educational program. SNEP will receive Native American input and make recommendations for changes in the educational program where and when necessary.

B. Findings from the surveys shall be forwarded to the Sitka School District for consideration for administrative action and placed on the Board agenda for review.
C. Members of standing and ad hoc advisory committees shall be invited to attend any Sitka School Board meeting to participate in discussions concerning Sitka School District Native American Policies and Procedures issues prior to any substantive modification of educational programs which have a specific impact upon Native American children. These committees shall address questions related to the equal participation of Native American students in the educational programs of the Sitka School District. The above mentioned committees will review Native American input and make recommendations for modifications in the Sitka School District Native American Policies and Procedures as may be necessary.

Legal Reference:

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
236-244 Financial Assistance to Local Educational Agencies (PL 81-874)

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT, P.L. 107-110 (2002)