



**Revised Indian Policies and Procedures
Blue Ridge Unified School District #32
2024-2025 School Year
Application #12-6204 AZ-2025**

It is the intent of the Blue Ridge Unified School District #32 (BRUSD) 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 Blue Ridge Unified School District will consult with local tribes and parents of Indian 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 Blue Ridge Unified 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 FY25 Impact Aid application.

The Blue Ridge Unified 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 2024-2025 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 Blue Ridge Unified School District will disseminate information and seek timely input regarding the following programs on its educational program Such as:

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| A. Title I, Part A | F. Title IV, Part A |
| B. Title I, Part C | G. Title IV, Part B |
| C. Title I, Part D | H. Title V, Part B subpart 2 |
| D. Title II, Part A | I. Title VI, Part A, subpart 1 |
| E. Title III, Part A | J. Title VII, Impact Aid Programs |

The completed applications, evaluations, and program planning will be made available to parents of Indian children, Tribal officials, and the Whiteriver Indian Education Committee; Which consists of community members, Tribal Parents, and a school board member (Parent Advisory Committee - WIEC) and a summary will be prepared and made public. The LEA will disseminate, as soon as reasonably possible after such information becomes available, but not later than five days in advance of any public hearings held in Whiteriver, AZ and Blue Ridge Unified School District, Lakeside, AZ (September 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 publicly advertised by District Website, Flyers, newspaper, and a local Indian Country Radio station to allow all interested parties to attend. In addition, representatives from the District and WIEC will schedule meetings with the Native American Support staff to seek input. Last of all, BRUSD's 24-25 Impact Aid Application will be posted at hearings for all to review. The districts Assessment/Evaluation of equal participation in all Educational Programs is explained at all Title-I Meetings for transparency. Affirmation of Consultation documents are signed by all Tribal entities that want voice. These consultations are in two-part Impact Aid and Federal Program reviews in terms of financial encumbrances for the pursuit of district educational programs that are best for our students. This simplifies trying to hold two separate meetings as per Tribal request.

Our IPP is board approved and a fluid document. Copies are made available upon request and are posted in local Tribal District throughout Indian lands.

Parents of Indian children, tribal officials, the Indian Education 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 Indian Education meetings will be posted on the District's website for all patrons and Tribal officials to review. Minutes will also be posted in the Tribal Educational Center in Whiteriver, AZ. This will allow for ongoing dissemination of information. Upon request, LEA will mail out minutes to those not able to receive them otherwise.

POLICY (2): The Blue Ridge Unified School District will provide an opportunity for the White Mountain Apache 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. (34CFR222 .94(a)(2)] As a part of this requirement, the LEA will-

- (i) Notify tribes and the parents of Indian children of the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations, considering the tribe's preference for method of communication, and
- (ii) Modify the method of and time for soliciting Indian views, if necessary, to ensure the maximum participation of tribes and parents of Indian children.

Procedure 2:

The Blue Ridge WIEC (Whiteriver Indian Education Committee) of the Blue Ridge Unified School District will meet if necessary, (in the evenings as per Tribal members) for the purpose of addressing comments and concerns of parents of Indian children regarding the district's educational programs and activities. Meetings by committee will take place in the Higher Education Conference room in Whiteriver, AZ. The meeting agendas are posted a week in advance of the meeting 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. Meetings will be advertised by flyer, district website, local newspapers, and Indian Country Radio station.

At each of the monthly school board meetings, a section of time is set aside for communications from the public (accomplished through "Call to the Public"). This is a time to offer comments and suggestions regarding programming for Indian students. In addition, two public hearings are scheduled November, February, and June, 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 considered.

Indian parents and Tribes will be given notice of any and all meetings by radio station, email, robo calls, announcements, informational flyer's, Tribal newspaper, district website, school marquee, and postings at local Tribal districts.

Tribal Preference method of communication is expressed in this document. The Tribe does request the majority of the meetings take place in the evenings to allow those that work and opportunity to be in attendance.

Last of all, Information will be included in student handbooks/enrollment packages regarding opportunities to provide input to the district. A section of the district's website will also include a place for Indian Community Members to voice questions and concerns with the District Native American support person and WIEC.

Once the preferred method of communication has been decided, the tribe and parents of Indian children communication method will be used throughout the consultation process. Any changes to the method will happen through additional consultation with tribes and parents. The LEA will, to the greatest extent possible, take the tribe's preferred method of communication into consideration for all correspondence with the tribe and the parents of Indian children.

Furthermore, The Tribes preferred method of communication will be as follows: The Blue Ridge Unified School District has consulted with the White Mountain Apache Nation prior to the adoption of these board policies. The White Mountain Apache Tribe prefers all communication with the tribe and the parents of Indian children be disseminated via email, district generated flyers, radio station (KNNB) announcements, district web site, and Tribal postings at community centers in each of the Tribal districts.

Blue Ridge Unified School District 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 IPP's and the educational program and activities.

If participation in the survey at consultation meetings results in a low return rate or the established meeting yields low participation by the parents of Indian Children and Tribal Officials, the Blue Ridge Unified School District will re-evaluate its plan and consult with parents of Indian children and Tribal officials on ways to improve and enhance participation in the consultation process. The BRUSO may relocate meetings and times to encourage participation.

POLICY (3): The Blue Ridge Unified School District will, at least 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)] As part of this requirement, the LEA will:

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

- A. The Blue Ridge School District will monitor Indian student participation in all academic and co-curricular activities. Monitoring will be accomplished by teacher driven data that will be collected and sent to Native American support staff for dissemination and analyzation. AzMerit test scores will also be used to compare students' progress with that of other students across the state of AZ. The AzMerit test is a state certified exam that compares students grades in CORE academic areas and allows school officials a chance to disseminate the data collected and identify learning gaps and educational progress of our students.
- B. School District officials and Native Support staff will review school data to assess the extent of Indian children's participation in the District's educational programs on an equal basis.
- C. The Blue Ridge Unified School District will share its assessment of district funding, Indian student participation, related academic achievements and other related data with the parents of Indian children and tribal officials by (mail, email, posting at tribal offices, etc.)
- D. Parents of Indian children, tribal officials and other interested parties may express their views on participation through direct communication with the school district Native American Support Staff or, at any school board meeting or to the Indian Education Committee (Parent Advisory Committee)
- E. Copies of annual reports will be provided to tribal officials by mail, email, posting at tribal offices, etc.)

- F. Results of state exams are available in the last week of July annually. Summative and formative assessment's test and benchmark exams are communicated weekly as per needed. Communication is by, phone, email, parent teacher conference, etc. Parents are given options for adding suggested interventions with tutoring programs, summer school, etc. Best Practices of communicating educational concerns and progress is done daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly. Preferred method of academic progress is accomplished through email. These lines of correspondence are crucial as the district considers more effective way to educate our Native American student body populations. Our NA population is compared to the non-NA student population. The district takes advisement from Tribal members in terms of better more effective way to educate or NA students.

POLICY (4): The Blue Ridge Unified 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 the organization meeting of the White Mountain Indian Education Committee (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 Blue Ridge Unified School District School Board 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 Blue Ridge Unified School District School Board.

The Blue Ridge Unified School Board will schedule a meeting during the 2024-2025 School Year to discuss the content of the IPPs, equal participation, and educational program and activities.

Parents of Indian children and tribes will be notified via, email, robo call, Tribal Newspapers, Tribal Radio Station (KNNB), and Tribal Face Book page regarding these meetings and their ability to submit comment. Federal Program Director, Superintendent and the School Board then evaluate the recommendations for change and improvement. This is done in partnership with Tribal leaders and parents alike for changes to these IPP's.

A combination of the School Board, Tribal Parent Committee and LEA leadership make the final decisions as per recommended change. All changes are implemented immediately upon approval of the IPP.

The Blue Ridge Unified School District will disseminate copies of the revised IPPs to the tribe and parents of Indian children by Local Tribal District postings, emails, school website, and Tribal Face book within 30 days of adoption by the BRUSO School Board.

POLICY (5): The Blue Ridge Unified 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:

POLICY (5): The Blue Ridge Unified 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. This will be facilitated by mail, email, posting at tribal offices, etc.
34CFR222.94 (a) (6))

The Blue Ridge Unified School District will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by the Whiteriver Indian Education Committee (Parent Advisory Committee), tribal officials, or parents of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to all parties (by mail, email, posting at tribal offices, etc.) prior to the submission of the IPPs by the District.

The Blue Ridge Unified School District will annually keep track of and assemble all comments and suggestions received through the various consultation processes by offering a parent survey that will extract usable and meaningful data. Additionally, parent meetings and advisory meetings will be used as a check and a balance for direct and explicit information gathering sessions.

The Blue Ridge Unified School District will at least annually respond in writing to comments and recommendations made by tribes, or parents of Indian children, and disseminate the responses to all parties by email, Tribal District postings, School Websites, and at parent committee meetings prior to the submission of the IPPs by the District. The district confirms that it does and will answer all questions, comments, and recommendations. All recommendations and correspondence will be shared with all parties involved.

POLICY (6): The Blue Ridge Unified School District will provide a copy of the IPPs annually to the affected tribe or tribes. [34CR F222.94 (a)(6))

The Blue Ridge Unified School District will annually provide a copy of the current Indian Policies and Procedures to the Apache Nation Tribe (s) by email or via certified mail and postings at all Tribal Districts, to one and all that wish to review this policy prior to submitting the Impact Aid Application.

Board Approval Date: December 12, 2023