



# Southwest Region School District

## Indian Policy & Procedures

### Responses to Parental, Community Member, and Tribal Council Feedback

February 16, 2021

Dear Parent,

Southwest Region School District (SWRSD) values feedback from parents, community members, and tribal organizations. The district is working on increasing collaboration with parents and tribal organizations as educational programs continue to progress and develop. Communication is a key component to having more collaborative opportunities between SWRSD and parents. It is important that you have access to information about educational programs and have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and provide suggestions.

In November, surveys were sent to parent and Tribal organizations to solicit feedback about the education programs in the district. In addition, each year there is a public meeting at each of our schools outlining the educational programs, curriculum resources, and individual school plans. The survey results were collected, as well as, the questions and comments from the public meetings. Below are the responses to the questions and comments.

Also included in this packet are the Indian Policies & Procedures (IPP's) for which no changes were recommended by parents or tribal organizations. The IPPs are reviewed annually and feedback sought from tribal organizations and parents to determine if changes are needed.

Results from the survey can be found at: <https://www.swrsd.org/Page/140>

#### **Date of Public Meetings**

Aleknagik – Dec 11, 2020

Chief Ivan Blunka – Nov 18, 2020

Koliganek – Nov 30, 2020

Togiak – Feb 8, 2021

Clarks Point – Nov 19, 2020

Manokotak Nunaniq– Nov 20, 2020

Twin Hills – Nov 23, 2020

William Sonny Nelson – Dec 10, 2020

The next few pages have the responses to questions posed and a list of comments made with seeking feedback



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### **Question 1 – is cursive taught?**

This answer varies depending on the school. Please contact your local school for this answer.

### **Question 2 – are books still available to checkout?**

This answer varies depending on the school. Please contact your local school for this answer.

### **Question 3 – are migrant funds allowed to be carried over into the next year due to the pandemic?**

Unused migrant funds were allowed to be carried over from the 2019-20 school year to the 2020-21 school year. A determination has not been made by the state migrant program as to whether unused migrant funds for this year will be able to be carried forward to next year.

### **Question 4 – are the funds that are allocated for student travel in the grants have to be moved to other areas?**

Yes, but it hasn't been determined as to where the student travel allocation will be re-allocated.

### **Question 5 – did the district receive CARES Act funding and does it support all of our schools including our small schools?**

Yes, the district did receive CARES Act funding, which was used to support all of our schools including our small schools.

### **Question 6 – is the curriculum that was presented what we are doing or is it what we should be doing?**

The curriculum presented is the School Board adopted curriculum used by teachers. Teachers have the option to add supplemental curriculum or provide supplemental instructional as needed.

### **Question 7 – Is world history offered as a course in middle/high school?**

There are various world history courses offered at both the middle school and high school levels.

### **Question 8 – Are the history courses taught to specific grades?**

It isn't possible for every school to offer the same history course to the same grade level each year because of small student population so, the grade level at which the history courses are taught is dependent upon the individual school schedules.



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#### **Question 9 – Is the Reading Mastery the curricula resource that will continue to be implemented and if so, for how long?**

There is a curriculum review timeline and process for each core subject area. This is the year that the district English/language arts curricula will be reviewed. The result of the review will determine whether the Reading Mastery program will continue to be implemented or if there will be a different program. Typically, the curricula is reviewed every seven years so the curricula selected would be implemented for a minimum of seven years. However, there are other factors that contribute to the timeline for curricula review and implementation.

#### **Question 10 – How is the committee for the English/language arts curriculum review being selected?**

Principals were asked to nominate two teachers who have experience in delivery the current English/language arts curricula to participate on the review committee.

#### **Question 11 – Why are Yup'ik Studies courses optional at our schools?**

The eight schools within the district are very different and don't have access to all the same resources and expertise. The district works with each school to support the implementation of Yup'ik Studies courses with the available resources and expertise. The Yup'ik Studies program has been able to increase the access to Yup'ik Studies courses to some smaller sites via distance delivery.

Comment 1 – if parent engagement activities aren't able to occur at the school, perhaps activities can be sent home for parents to do with their kids.

Comment 2 – increase parent involvement through the use of online facebook raffles or other online activities.

Comment 3 – it feels like we are more organized with our curriculum than we were last year.

Comment 4 – everyone is looking forward to a time where schools can host parent engagement activities, holiday programs, athletic events, etc.

Comment 5 – I like the idea of a community service project as part of the school improvement plan.

Comment 6 – it would be helpful if the grant synopsis included site specific breakdowns.



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Comment 7 – A concern was presented about students not knowing who Elizabeth Peratrovich is and not understanding the significance of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

Comment 8 – Geography is a subject that needs to be introduced in earlier grades.

Comment 9 – There were concerns that Reading Mastery is not effective, is not a good fit for students/children, limits students that are ready to excel, and is not culturally relevant.

Comment 10 – There was a concern that the curriculum, in general, does not prepare students for post-secondary education.

Comment 11 – There was a concern about the limited time for Yup'ik Studies content to be taught to elementary students.

Comment 12 – Create a Yup'ik Studies course that teaches the circle of life and human development.

There are a number of opportunities for parents to provide comments or ask questions including but not limited to the following:

- Public comment section of SWRSD School Board meetings
- Public comment section at local CSC meetings
- Complete questionnaire's or feedback forms
- Participate in the Parent Advisory Committee
- Contact your local principal
- Provide comment by email at [feedback@swrsd.org](mailto:feedback@swrsd.org)

You can access educational program resources at [www.swrsd.org](http://www.swrsd.org) under the Parent Information tab.

If you are interested in being a member of a Parent Advisory Committee, please contact Jon Clouse.

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