



## Southwest Region School District

### Indian Policy & Procedures

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

February 5, 2022

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 October, surveys were sent to parents 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) showing the changes that were implemented. 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 – August 30, 2021

Chief Ivan Blunka – September 22, 2021

Koliganek – October 5, 2021

Togiak – January 24, 2022

Clarks Point – October 20, 2021

Manokotak Nunaniq – October 20, 2021

Twin Hills – September 21, 2021

William Sonny Nelson – September 16, 2021

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 - what other programs are being considered during the math curriculum review.**

The district is looking at SAVVAS (same company as Pearson), Houghton-Mifflin, Saxon math, and Big Ideas

### **Question 2 - if a local Yup'ik Studies instructor position is not able to be filled, is there something online.**

There is the Yungtun app that is in a game format to help students learn the language but it still needs to be supervised by a teacher. Another option being looked into is a zoom with a teacher but it would still require supervision by someone in the classroom with students.

### **Question 3 – Does the migrant education program go from pre-k to 12<sup>th</sup> grade?**

The migrant program can qualify children from birth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade or age 20 if they have not graduated, including students that have dropped out of school.

### **Question 4 – Is reading mastery still the curriculum?**

No, reading mastery has been replaced with MyView. Reading Mastery is still listed as a curriculum resource as an intervention program but not the core reading curriculum.

### **Question 5 – What does MyView consist of and how does it address the learning loss?**

MyView has a diagnostic test that will place each student into the appropriate grade level to maximize learning. The curriculum will identify “holes” in learning and then students will go through the reading program with teacher instruction. Progress monitoring is part of the MyView program. MyView provides a number of resources that are available for teachers to provide instruction.

### **Question 6 – What if all the students in the grade test at different levels? How will that be addressed?**

Teachers will collaborate to develop lessons, learning groups, etc. to address the varying needs of students in each grade. Instruction for each level of student is determined and then set by the SAVVAS curriculum.

### **Question 7 – What is the math curriculum?**

Currently, it is the same as last year, which is GoMath. But this year, the math curriculum is up for review.



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#### **Question 8 – Where is the ELA curriculum coming from?**

SAVVAS is the company that published the MyView curriculum which is aligned to the Alaska State Standards.

#### **Question 9 - How many people are needed to serve on the Yup'ik Studies committees.**

The district is looking for two people to serve on the Yungtun Parent Handbook committee and the Kinship Development Handbook committee.

#### **Question 10 - is any of the American Rescue Plan relief funds going to be used to support technology?**

The ESSER II covid relief funds were used to complete a computer refresh for all staff and students in grades 6 through 12. There may be some additional technology support through the American Rescue Plan.

#### **Question 11 - what is the American Rescue Plan relief funds going to be used for?**

The areas for which the The American Rescue Plan relief funds will support are still being determined but some activities that will be supported will be ensuring our facilities are healthy and safe, technology support, addressing learning loss due to the pandemic, curriculum reviews, and other areas.

#### **Question 12 - Reading Mastery is still a part of the curriculum as a special education resources, is that correct?**

Yes, there are students that thrive with Reading Mastery so we kept it for the specific needs of students.

#### **Question 13 - does each school develop a budget for their Title IA school allocation?**

Yes, each school develops a budget with parent input.

#### **Question 14 - what is the formula that the state uses to determine the allocation of school improvement funds to each school?**

It is based on the number of schools identified as a “school in improvement” and the current funding for school improvement from the state. The specific formula used by the state is unknown.

#### **Question 15 - is the ESSER II budget district-wide? What was the FY21 utility budget used for?**

Yes, the budget presented is for the entire district. The entire ESSER II allocation must be expended by the end of the 2022-23 school year. The FY21 utility budget was used to pay for internet costs at our schools.



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#### **Question 16 - is it left up to each school to determine what they teach in Yup'ik Studies?**

There is a district-wide curriculum, some of which has been adopted and some of which is still in the development process.

**Comment 1** – I really appreciate all the migrant education staff that help make that program happen.

**Comment 2** - work towards adopting curriculum that is Alaska themed, Alaska based, and culturally relevant.

**Comment 3** - believes that MyView will be a good resource for students.

**Comment 4** – very happy with the Yup'ik Studies programs that are happening.

**Comment 5** - wish we had more certified teachers teaching Yupik Studies

**Comment 6** - teaching the various methods to solve a math problem is a waste of paper and time.

#### **Concern 1 - a concern about testing bias was expressed when using curriculum that isn't specific to Alaska and rural Alaska.**

The district is always working to ensure that the curriculum adopted address the Alaska State Standards as required by law and address needs of our communities and culture.

#### **Concern 2 - There are a number of parents that don't have the resources to make the qualifying moves that meet the requirements to qualify for the migrant education program**

This is a concern that the district is aware of and have passed along those concerns to the state Migrant Education Office. The eligibility requirements are determined at the federal level and parents are encouraged to write to the congress people representing Alaska with these concerns.

#### **Concern 3 - concerned about the reasons why students can reach high school but read well below grade level.**

There can be a number of factors that contribute to this concern. The district is working diligently to provide additional resources for students that need supplemental instruction.



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#### **Concern 4 - there has been feedback from parents not in support of GoMath.**

GoMath is one of the resources that was aligned with the most recent standards. These types of math curriculum provide multiple instructional methods to reach an answer or understand a concept.

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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