



SIX DIRECTIONS INDIGENOUS SCHOOL

2055 NM-602

Gallup, NM 87301

Phone: 505-863-1900 Fax: 505-863-8826

Six Directions Indigenous School (SDIS) Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Mission Statement: The Six Directions Indigenous School, through a commitment to culturally relevant indigenous education and interdisciplinary project-based learning, will develop critically conscious students who are engaged in their communities, demonstrate holistic well-being, and have a personal plan for succeeding in post-secondary opportunities.

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF HOW SDIS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Involving Parents and Family Members in Policy Development:

- SDIS will establish a Parent and Family Engagement Committee (PFEC) inclusive of diverse parent and family member representation, including those from economically disadvantaged, disabled, and minority backgrounds.
- Regular meetings will be held to review and jointly develop the SDIS Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Feedback will be actively sought through surveys and community forums.
- Culturally appropriate consultation methods, such as talking circles and community gatherings, will be used to gather input and ensure the policy aligns with the values and expectations of the indigenous community.

2. Building Capacity for Effective Engagement:

- SDIS will provide ongoing training and resources for parents and families on how to support their children's learning at home, leveraging culturally relevant content and practices.
- Collaboration with local indigenous organizations and elders will be fostered to integrate traditional knowledge and practices into the school's engagement activities.
- SDIS will organize workshops and information sessions on topics such as navigating post-secondary opportunities, health and well-being, and community leadership, reflecting the school's mission to promote holistic well-being and community engagement.

3. Coordinating and Integrating Engagement Strategies:

- SDIS will coordinate its engagement strategies with other relevant programs such as Head Start, Native American Student Services, and Special Education, ensuring a seamless support system for families.
- Joint events and activities will be organized with these programs to maximize participation and resource sharing.

4. **Annual Evaluation of the Engagement Policy:**
 - An annual evaluation will be conducted with the involvement of parents and family members to assess the effectiveness of the engagement policy and identify barriers to participation.
 - Focus groups and community feedback sessions will be held to discuss findings and develop strategies for improvement.
 - Special attention will be given to ensuring that the needs and voices of all community members, including those with limited English proficiency or literacy, are considered in the evaluation process.
5. **Using Evaluation Findings to Enhance Engagement:**
 - The findings from the annual evaluation will be used to design evidence-based strategies for enhancing parental and family engagement.
 - Revisions to the policy will be made as necessary, incorporating feedback and suggestions from the community.
 - Successful engagement practices will be documented and shared as models for continuous improvement.
6. **Encouraging Parental and Family Involvement in School Activities:**
 - SDIS will ensure that parents and family members are actively involved in school activities and decision-making processes, including participation in advisory committees and school events.
 - Efforts will be made to schedule meetings and activities at various times to accommodate different family schedules and to provide transportation and childcare support when needed.
 - Community-based organizations and local businesses, including faith-based entities, will be engaged to support and enhance parent and family involvement.

PART II. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Six Directions Indigenous School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation.
- The engagement policy will be integrated into the overall plan for the school and aligned with the mission of developing critically conscious and engaged students.
- SDIS will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and those of migratory backgrounds. Information will be shared in accessible formats and languages.
- Any comments from parents and family members will be considered and included when submitting plans to the State Department of Education.
- Parents and family members will be involved in decisions regarding the use of funds reserved for parent and family engagement, ensuring effective use and distribution directly to the schools.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENTS

In addition to the required components, SDIS may undertake the following activities:

- Develop training for teachers and staff to enhance their effectiveness in engaging parents and families.
- Provide literacy and educational training for parents to support their children's academic progress.
- Arrange home visits or in-home conferences to engage with parents who may have difficulty attending school meetings.
- Establish a district-wide Parent Advisory Council to provide ongoing advice on engagement policies and practices.
- Foster partnerships with community-based and faith-based organizations to support engagement activities and extend their reach.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents and family members of children participating in Title I Part A programs at Six Directions Indigenous School. It will be in effect for the period of one year and will be reviewed and updated annually.

This policy was adopted on June 25, 2025 and will be distributed to all parents and family members of participating children on or before August 6, 2024.



Rebecca Niiha
Head Administrator

Date: June 25, 2025

This policy emphasizes the culturally relevant and community-focused approach of the Six Directions Indigenous School and aligns with the statutory requirements for parent and family engagement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Approved by the SDIS Governing Council on June 25, 2025.