



## BYLAWS OF THE TRIBAL NATIONS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Preamble:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC), as established by the Tribal directive, will reinforce the government-to-government relationships between sovereign Tribal Nations and the State of Minnesota. Therefore, the TNEC shall be consulted with in all matters pertaining to the education of Minnesota’s American Indian Communities.

**Mission Statement:** To strengthen, protect and advance the overall education experience and opportunities for all tribal (American Indian) students, families, and communities of Minnesota.

### ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this committee shall be the Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC).

### ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES/DUTIES

**Section 1:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee advises and communicates on behalf of Minnesota’s Tribal Nations and serves as the consultative body for all matters related to American Indian education., and is the primary liaison between the tribes, rural and urban American Indian communities, and the State of Minnesota’s Department of Education (MDE), Office of Higher Education (OHE) and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

**Section 2:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee promotes and advocates for the improved educational experiences of Minnesota’s American Indian youth, children, and families, with a specific focus on the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- K-12 Education in School Districts and Charter Schools
- Tribally Controlled Schools
- Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, private colleges and universities, and the University of Minnesota system

**Section 3:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee shall provide advice and counsel to MDE’S Commissioner of Education, Tribal Liaison, and Director of the Office of American Indian Education, as well as the OHE, DCYF, and the Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) regarding all American Indian education programs and all revenues that affect American Indian students, including but not limited to:

- The Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program
- American Indian Scholars Program
- The NorthStar Promise
- The MDE Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship

- American Indian Education Aid
- The Dream Catcher/Indian Home-School Liaison Program
- The Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP)
- Tribal Equalization Aid
- Impact Aid
- Administration and Teacher Licensure
- The Indian Education Act of 1988
- Special Education
- Achievement and Integration Funds
- Title Funding
- Tribal Consultation Under ESSA
- Indigenous Education For All (IEFA)
- Academic Standards
- Early Learning Services Programs
  - Head Start & Early Head Start
  - Early Learning Scholarships
  - Early Intervention Services
  - Preschool Development Grant
  - Voluntary Pre-K
  - Early Childhood Family Education
  - School Readiness & School Readiness Plus
- After School Community Learning Grant Program

### ARTICLE 3: PROGRAM

**Section 1:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee contact/location shall be at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Headquarters, PO Box 217, Cass Lake, MN 56633.

### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1:** The membership shall consist of tribally endorsed or tribally appointed representatives. At-large members shall be endorsed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC).

**Section 2:** There shall be 15 members on this committee. 11 members will represent the Tribal Nations of Minnesota, one member will represent the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), one member will represent Greater Minnesota, and two members will represent the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

**Section 3:** Members will serve 4-year terms or as determined by the respective Tribal Nation or MIAC.

**Section 4:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee shall not afford monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its members.

## ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS

**Section 1:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee shall elect officers to serve in the following roles:

- Chairperson: 2-year term
- Vice-Chairperson: 2-year term
- Secretary: 2-year term
- Treasurer: 2-year term

**Section 2:** These offices shall be filled and staggered every 2 years on the following schedule:

- Chair, elected on odd years
- Vice-Chair, elected on even years
- Secretary, elected on odd years
- Treasurer, elected on even years

**Section 3:** Officers will be elected by the Tribal Nations Education Committee membership at the January closed meeting.

**Section 4:** In the event of an off-year officer vacancy a special election will be held to fill the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

**Section 1:** It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preside over all meetings of the committee.

- a. The Chairperson shall formally represent the Tribal Nations Education Committee at all meetings and hearings pertinent to American Indian education issues.
- b. The Chairperson shall establish/appoint/accept volunteers for subcommittees.
- c. The Chairperson shall create closed and open meeting agendas in cooperation with the Executive Committee.

**Section 2:** The Vice-Chairperson will preside in the Chairperson's absence and assume all duties as applicable.

**Section 3:** The Secretary, or the agreed upon designee, shall record the minutes of all closed and open meetings, and will retain the official records of such meetings at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in Cass Lake. The Secretary shall notify the TNEC first and then respective tribes of unexcused absences or vacancy of membership.

**Section 4:** The Treasurer shall preside over the Tribal Nations Education Committee's Financial Subcommittee, budget planning, financial reporting, financial record keeping, and manage incoming and outgoing funds.

## ARTICLE 7: VACANCIES

**Section 1:** A position on the Tribal Nations Education Committee is vacant when:

- a. A member submits a written resignation to the executive committee.
- b. There are three consecutive unexcused absences by the member or alternate.
- c. A member no longer meets membership criteria.

**Section 2:** Notification of Vacancy

- a. The full committee will be notified when a vacancy arises, followed by the Tribal Nations.

- b. The Tribal Nation with the vacancy will be asked to appoint a new representative to the Tribal Nations Education Committee, to serve a 4-year term or terms as determined by the respective Nation.
- c. Vacancies for greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities metropolitan area will be communicated statewide.

## ARTICLE 8: MEETINGS

**Section 1:** General meetings of the Tribal Nations Education Committee will be held monthly. Five voting members in attendance will constitute a quorum.

**Section 2:** The Tribal Nations Education Committee will set the subsequent year's calendar annually in December.

**Section 3:** Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson.

**Section 4:** Meetings identified as "open" are accessible to the public.

**Section 5:** If a member or their tribally endorsed alternate cannot attend a meeting, they will notify the committee's executive team via email or text a minimum of 1-hour prior to the scheduled meeting, otherwise the absence will be considered unexcused.

## ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

**Section 1:** These bylaws will be reviewed annually and approved by a committee quorum. They may be amended or replaced by a simple majority of the Tribal Nations Education Committee at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Approved at a duly called Tribal Nations Education Committee on: January 8, 2025, by a vote of: 10 for; 0 against; 0 silent.

Laurie Harper

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Chairperson

Billie Annette

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Secretary

**Signature:** 

**Email:** laurie.harper@llojibwe.net

**Signature:**   
Billie Annette (Jan 30, 2025 14:17 CST)

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