

BYLAWS OF THE TRIBAL NATIONS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Preamble: The Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC), as established by Tribal directive, will reinforce the government-to-government relationship between sovereign Tribal Nations and the State of Minnesota. Therefore, the Tribal Nations Education Committee shall be consulted 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 is the primary liaison between the tribes, rural/urban Indian communities, and the State of Minnesota Department of Education in all matters relating to Indian education. The Tribal Nations Education Committee serves as the advising and communicating group on behalf of all tribes in the state of Minnesota and will serve as the main point of contact, entrance and communication for the state of Minnesota Department of Education regarding Indian education.

Section 2: The Tribal Nations Education Committee promotes and advocates for the education experience of all our youth, children and families including the following but not limited to:

- Early Childhood Education
- K-12 Education
- Tribally Controlled Schools
- Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Higher Education of all American Indian students in Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, private and University of Minnesota institutions
- Charter Schools

Section 3: The Tribal Nations Education Committee shall provide advice and counsel to the Minnesota Commissioner of Education, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the Minnesota Department of Education - Office of Indian Education regarding all Indian Education programs and on all revenues that affect American Indian students including but not limited to:

- Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program
- Ethel Curry Scholarship

- Indian Education Aid
- Indian Home School Liaison
- Indian Teaching Training
- Tribal Equalization
- Impact Aid
- Administration and Teacher Licensure (Eminence Credentialing)
- Indian Education Act
- Special Education
- Desegregation Funds
- Title Funds
- ESSA/Tribal Consultation

Article 3: Program

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

Article 4: Membership

Section 1: The membership shall consist of persons who are tribally endorsed or tribally appointed. At-large members shall be endorsed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Section 2: There shall be fifteen (15) members of this committee. Eleven (11) members will represent the Tribal Nations in Minnesota, one (1) member will represent Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, one (1) member will represent Greater Minnesota and two (2) members will represent the Twin Cities Metro area (Minneapolis and St. Paul.)

Section 3: Membership shall be 4-year terms or as determined by the respective tribal nation.

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

Article 5: Officers

Section 1: The Tribal Nations Education Committee shall have the following officers:

- Chairperson- 2-year term
- Vice Chairperson- 1 year (for 1st year) and then every 2 years
- Secretary- 2-year term

Section 2: These offices shall be filled and staggered every 2 years.

Section 3: Officers will be elected by the TNEC membership at the January meeting.

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

Article 6: Duties of Officers

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

a. The Chairperson shall formally represent the TNEC at all meetings and hearings pertinent to Indian education issues.

b. The Chairperson shall establish/appoint/ accept volunteers for subcommittees such as but not limited to: Special Case Committee, Bylaws Committee and Criterion/Guidelines Committee.

Section 2: The Vice-Chairperson will preside in the Chairperson's absence.

Section 3: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings. The official records of such meetings will be on file at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in Cass Lake. The Secretary shall notify respective tribes of non-attendance or vacancy of membership.

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 committee.

b. There are 3 consecutive non-excused absences by the member or alternate.

c. A member no longer meets membership criteria.

Section 2: Notification of Vacancy

a. Tribes will be notified when a vacancy has occurred.

b. Tribes will be requested to appoint a TNEC member to a four (4) year term or term as determined by their respective tribal nation.

Article 8: Meetings

Section 1: General meetings of the Tribal Nations Education Committee will be held monthly. Five (5) voting members in attendance will constitute a quorum.

Section 2: The first TNEC meeting will be held in January where the yearly calendar will be set.

Section 3: Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson and five (5) voting members in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business.

Section 4: All meetings shall be open except when there are agenda items that require confidentiality.

Section 5: If a member or their tribally endorsed alternate cannot attend a meeting it is their responsibility to notify an officer to be excused.

Article 9: Amendments

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended or replaced by a simple majority of the Tribal Nations Education Committee at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

Date (reviewed): December 14, 2022

Chairperson or Vice-Chair Signature: 