



Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. Policy Statement

SUBJECT: DINE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EDUCATION OF NAVAJO STUDENTS

POLICY NUMBER: IHBE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/12/14

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: 07/07/14

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 7/2017

CANCELS POLICY NUMBER: N/A

DATED: 8/8/14

I. PHILOSOPHY:

Preservation and revitalizing the Navajo Language and Culture is a priority of the Navajo Nation and Shonto Preparatory School. The Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education's Mission Statement: "It is the education mission of the Navajo Nation to promote and foster lifelong learning for the Navajo People, and to protect the cultural integrity and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation." The Vision Statement of Shonto Preparatory School: "Achieving academic excellence by embracing and fostering Diné language, culture, and partnerships for lifelong learning." Therefore the Governing Board establishes the following policy.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Governing Board that all Navajo students will participate in Diné Studies and Language as a core subject, not as an elective, for no less than 45 minutes per day for the school year.

III. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY:

Native American students that are not Navajo and non-native students are exempt from the policy upon parent and student request.

IV. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

Grades Pre-K to 2nd Grade will study Diné Language fully intending to revitalize the language. Grades 3 to 6 will use the Diné language to study culture and history, and grades 7 and 8 will use the Diné language to study history and government. The high school will recognize the state requirements of the study of a foreign language (Diné) with an emphasis on the five standards: (1) Diné oral language, (2) Diné culture, (3) Diné history, (4) Diné Government, and (5) Diné character building.

Students will complete pre- and post-assessment in the content areas of Diné culture, Diné history, Diné Government, and Diné character building.

Navajo Language instructors will take the Navajo Language proficiency exam. Upon completion of the Navajo Language proficiency exam with a passing grade the Navajo language instructor will submit an application to the Arizona Department of Education to attain full certification in Native Language instruction.

V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

The Superintendent for Schools is responsible for communicating this policy to all appropriate parties and enforcing the provisions.



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VI. REPORTS:

The Superintendent is directed to report to the Governing Board with an annual report that includes data of the number of students advancing from non-proficient to intermediate based on the oral assessment administered by DODE.

VII. FORMS:

Parents of other Native tribes and non-native students who prefer not to participate in the Diné Language and Culture class will complete the form attached to be exempt from participating.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE:

This policy expires three (3) years after its acceptance unless reapproved.


IX. SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Submitted by: Lemual B. Adson Date: 8/8/14
Superintendent

1st Reading: July 7, 2014

2nd Reading: August 8, 2014

3rd Reading: September 12, 2014

Established: 
Martha Tate, President,
Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.