

TRIBAL HISTORY AND CULTURE PROJECT

Sample Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

A Memorandum of Agreement is a document that describes how two or more parties will work together to accomplish an agreed-upon goal or objective. The purpose of a MOA is to set forth a clear understanding of the parameters of the project and the responsibilities of each of the participating parties.

This sample can be used as a starting point for crafting a Memorandum of Agreement between a School District and a Tribe regarding the establishment of a government-to-government relationship and the development of Tribal history and culture curricula. Because the MOA is a legally binding document, districts are encouraged to have their legal counsel review the final document before it is signed.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

between

The _____ School District Board of Directors

and

The _____ Nation Tribal Council

This historic MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the _____ School District, represented by its Board of Directors, and the Tribal Nation of _____, represented by the _____ Tribal Council and its member organizations, recognizes the importance of establishing a government-to-government relationship that fosters mutual understanding, shared responsibilities and a commitment to working together for the improvement of student learning.

This agreement recognizes the importance of developing curricula that relates the history, culture and government of Pacific Northwest Indian Tribes, especially that of the _____ Tribal nation, for all students in the district. It also recognizes that improvements are needed in the education of Indian youth to strengthen their academic achievement and enhance life opportunities, and that the education of Indian children can be advanced by providing curricula that includes Tribal experiences and perspectives.

I. INTENT

THIS AGREEMENT is hereby made and entered into by the _____ School District Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the District, and the _____ Tribal Council, hereinafter referred to as the Tribe, who will collaborate to establish curricula on Tribal history, culture and government in the District.

II. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is intended to establish Tribal curricula for use in schools under the oversight of the _____ School District Board of Directors.

III. DATE AND TERM

THIS AGREEMENT will become effective upon signing by all parties and will commence at the start of the 201__-201__ school year. The Agreement shall be reviewed annually by the parties to determine its continuation and/or need for modification.

PARTIES' MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work cooperatively to ensure appropriate, efficient communication in support of the objectives of this agreement.
- Ensure consistent attendance by District/Tribal representatives at all meetings and functions related to accomplishing the objectives of this agreement.
- Regularly share information about students' successes and barriers to success with the intent to improve programs and ensure high school completion by students served by these programs.
- Schedule annually a joint meeting of the District Board of Directors and Tribal Council to confer on the academic progress of Indian students and review the status of programs related to Tribal curricula.
- Work jointly to create a program of classroom and community cultural exchanges and celebrations.

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Convene an Instructional Review Committee (IRC) for the purpose of recommending curricula that incorporates Tribal history, culture and government for use in the District's schools.
- Ensure the IRC includes appropriate representation from the Tribe.
- Ensure the IRC considers curricula that incorporates information specifically related to the history, culture and government of the Tribe.
- Provide use of facilities and staff support necessary for the implementation of curricula on Tribal history, culture and government.
- Explore potential sources of funding or other resources for development and implementation of Tribal curricula.
- Use due diligence in reviewing the recommendations of the IRC and identifying the appropriate curricula.

- Identify the appropriate curricula and establish, in consultation with the Tribe, an implementation strategy.
- Provide staff training and instructional materials related to the identified curricula.
- Regularly monitor progress on implementation of the identified curricula.
- Provide information to parents, students and the community regarding the implementation of the Tribal curricula.

TRIBAL COUNCIL’S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identify appropriate representatives of the Tribe to serve on the Instructional Review Committee convened by the District to recommend curricula on Tribal history, culture and government.
- Provide information regarding the Tribe’s culture, history and government that may be useful in enhancing the District’s Tribal curricula.
- Facilitate participation by Tribal elders in sharing perspectives and history that may be useful in enhancing the District’s Tribal curricula.
- Assist in identifying and accessing potential sources of funding or other resources to support the development and implementation of Tribal curricula.
- Encourage community and family supports that will assist students in benefitting from the Tribal curricula.
- Assist in promoting Tribal member awareness of and support for the Tribal curricula project.
- Encourage Tribal member participation in cultural exchanges organized under this agreement.

Signed, this _____ day of _____, 201__, by:

FOR THE _____ SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chair/President

School Director

School Director

School Director

School Director

FOR THE _____ TRIBAL COUNCIL:

Chair/President

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

ATTEST:

Superintendent/Board Secretary