

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
P.O. Box 509
12554 BIA Hwy. 711
Agency Village, South Dakota 57262
Phone: (605) 698-3911

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. SWO-20-091

Support Legislation in the Ninety-Sixth Legislature to Create Equitable and Inclusive Education Options and Solutions to close the Educational Achievement Gap for Native American Youth in South Dakota

- WHEREAS,** The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate is organized under a Constitution and By-laws adopted by the members of the Tribe on August 1-2, 1966, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on August 25, 1966, and last amended effective November 15, 2006; and
- WHEREAS,** The Constitution ARTICLE III, Section 1, states that, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate shall be governed by a Council, and ARTICLE VII, Section 1, states that, the Council shall have the following powers: (a) to represent the Tribe in all negotiations with Federal, State and local governments; (g) to take any action by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise which are reasonably necessary through committees, boards, agents or otherwise, to carry into effect the for-going purposes; (h) to promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate; (i) adopt resolutions regulating the procedures of the Tribal Council, its officials and committees in the conduct of Tribal Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interests of the people of the state to provide all children with public schools that reflect historical truths and high expectations and to create conditions in all schools where these expectations can be met; and
- WHEREAS,** existing educational structures do not meet the academic, spiritual, cultural, and social needs of Indigenous students in South Dakota as evidenced by statewide achievement data; and
- WHEREAS,** education reform is necessary to strengthen the academic performance and cultural identity of elementary and secondary public school students, especially Indigenous students; and
- WHEREAS,** to date, the South Dakota Department of Education has not developed a metric to assess the level of implementation of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, a state recognized set of standards, as approved by the State Board of Education Standards; and
- WHEREAS,** parents and educators have a right and a responsibility to participate in the education institutions which serve them; and
- WHEREAS,** different students learn differently and public school programs should be customized to fit the needs of individual students; and

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WHEREAS, there are parents, educators, and other citizens in the state who are willing and able to offer educational programs but who lack a channel through which they can direct their efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of students and their communities to access instruction and educational experiences in the public school system that are anchored in the official Indigenous languages of South Dakota.

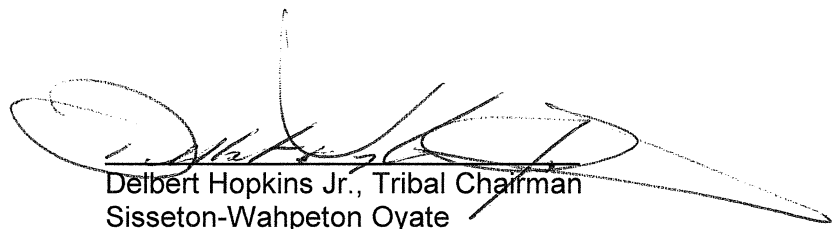
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation hereby supports the development and passage of legislation establishing a network of publicly and equitably funded community-based models of Indigenous education based on the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings with the State of South Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the South Dakota legislature shall convene a study committee with state and tribal representatives to develop a clear and equitable strategy to establish and grow community-based models of Indigenous education models in South Dakota; and

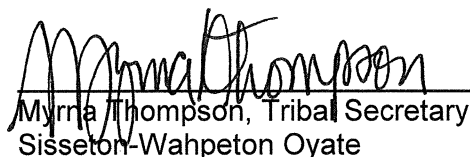
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state shall not support the use of funds for community-based models of Indigenous education models if such funds are taken from existing programs for Indian education.

CERTIFICATION

We, the Undersigned duly elected Tribal Chairman and Tribal Secretary of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council, which is composed of 10 members (representing a total of 15 Tribal Council weighted votes and two Executive Committee votes for a total of 17 votes) of whom 8 constituting a quorum, were present at a Tribal Council meeting, duly noticed, called, convened and held at the TiWakan Tio Tipi, Agency Village, South Dakota, December 2, 2020, by a vote of 12 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 0 absent from vote, 1 not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.


Delbert Hopkins Jr., Tribal Chairman
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

ATTEST:


Myrna Thompson, Tribal Secretary
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

