



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 196

Introduced by: **Senator Grove**

1 **An Act to require the display and curricular inclusion of the Woope Sakowin in public**
 2 **schools.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 13-24:**

5 The board of a school district shall display the text of the Woope Sakowin in each
 6 classroom in each public school located within the district. The display must be a poster
 7 or document that is at least eight inches by fourteen inches. The text of the Woope
 8 Sakowin must be the focus of the poster or document and must be printed in large, easily
 9 readable font.

10 The text of the Woope Sakowin must be printed with the following or substantially
 11 similar language:

12 (1) Wacante Oganake: to help, to share, to give, to be generous;

13 (2) Wowaunsila: pity, compassion;

14 (3) Wowauonihan: to respect, to honor;

15 (4) Wowacintanka: patience and tolerance;

16 (5) Wowahwala: to be humble, to seek humility;

17 (6) Woohitike: to be guided by your principles, discipline, bravery and courage; and

18 (7) Woksape: understanding and wisdom.

19 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 13-24:**

20 The following statements must be displayed near any poster or document listing
 21 the Woope Sakowin pursuant to section 1 of this Act:

22 (1) The Woope Sakowin are a set of values that have been a part of Oceti Sakowin
 23 teachings since a time predating statehood;

- 1 (2) The Woope Sakowin, which means seven laws, have long served as a moral and
2 ethical framework within the Oceti Sakowin community, emphasizing personal
3 responsibility, integrity, and strong family and community values;
4 (3) Rooted in traditions that have guided generations, the Woope Sakowin teach
5 principles of wisdom, respect, generosity, and perseverance, aligning with ideals
6 of character, self-discipline, and civic responsibility; and
7 (4) The Woope Sakowin are recognized within this state's educational system through
8 the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings.

9 **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 13-33:**

- 10 Each public school district shall include, as part of the district's history and civics
11 curriculum, instruction on the history of the Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota peoples, and the
12 philosophical principles articulated in the Woope Sakowin displayed pursuant to section 1
13 of this Act. The instruction must cover:
14 (1) The Doctrine of Discovery;
15 (2) Tribal treaties, including the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty; and
16 (3) The Oceti Sakowin tribal constitutions.