

**419.8 SMUDGING AND PIPE CEREMONIES**

**I. PURPOSE**

Independent School District 318 recognizes that time honored indigenous traditions and ceremonies involving smudging have passed from generation to generation. In support of the cultural integrity of these Native American traditions, ISD 318 supports smudging on school property and the goal of this policy is to respect all staff, students and visitors of the District, as well as to comply with Minnesota State Statute 144.4167, 144.4165) and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Adopted 8/8/23

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**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. This regulation allows for students, elders, and cultural teachers who are members of an American Indian Tribe and/or Descendant of to oversee individual or group traditional practices including but not limited to: Opening/Closing ceremonies, Individual or Group Smudging, Feasts, Pipe Ceremonies, Pow Wows, and Drumming/Singing.
- B. The defined procedures provide direction to the ISD 318 school community for engagement and traditions respectfully.

**III. SMUDGING AND PIPE CEREMONIES PROCEDURES**

- A. ISD 318 is committed to creating an inclusive, open, and respectful climate for our diverse community members and guests.
- B. There are many types and forms of ceremony: individual, group as it relates to cultural lessons, and for community engagement.
- C. Regulations include the use of tobacco, sage, sweet grass, and cedar.
- D. When someone wants to smudge they will connect with a staff member; that staff member will reach out to the Ojibwe education program and through collaboration with administration that person will be allowed to smudge.
- E. Smudging will only be done with a person who is associated with the Ojibwe education program, or has had the proper training to do so.
- F. Smudging is voluntary; no person shall be forced to participate in the cultural activity.
- G. Smudging locations will be established so as not to set off building alert systems.

**IV. AUTHORITY**

This Procedure is established in accordance with Minnesota's Clean Air Act (Minnesota Statutes 1997 144.4167 and 144.4165), and The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA).