

Policy 950 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to formalize a statement from the Northfield School District that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A “land acknowledgement” is a formal statement from a city, province, state, institution of higher education, or other cultural institution that affirms and recognizes the Indigenous peoples of a particular place and their historic, ongoing, and future relationships with those lands and waters.

III. HISTORY

- A. The Wahpekute Tribe were the earliest known people to occupy the region around Northfield, Minnesota and lived here for thousands of years.
- B. The 2020–21 District Youth Council’s Equity and Inclusion subcommittee, on behalf of the District Youth Council, proposed a land acknowledgement be formally adopted by the Board of Education.

IV. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Northfield School District recognizes that we reside on the homeland of the Wahpekute Tribe of the Dakota Nation. We acknowledge the wrongdoings, previous and ongoing, and strive to repair and strengthen our relations with Indigenous peoples.

V. DISSEMINATION OF THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

- A. Sharing the land acknowledgement statement
 - 1. The land acknowledgement statement will be read at the school board organizational meeting in January, at the board meeting nearest Indigenous Peoples Day and at Northfield High School and Area Learning Center senior graduations.
 - 2. The land acknowledgement statement will be published on the district’s website, in the district’s nature areas located at its elementary schools, on meeting agendas and at a prominent location in each school building office.
 - 3. The land acknowledgement statement may be read in other circumstances as determined by an administrator.

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Adopted: 06.14.2021; Reviewed: 12.21.2023

Board of Education
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659
Northfield, Minnesota