

CSKT Project AWARE

November 6, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wanted to inform you that the Polson School District is pleased to continue to implement CSKT Program AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) with middle school and high school students. This program is in partnership with the Tribal Education Department (TED) of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation and with the Tribal Health Department (THD) of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

CSKT Project AWARE is a State Education Agency Grant funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded to the CSKT's TED. This project promotes healthy social and emotional development of students. Teachers, school staff and classroom guests will be implementing instructional lessons and foundational projects to help increase students' sense of self and identity, health and wellness. The program is designed to enhance classroom instruction with tribal, traditional "ways of knowing" and cultural practices to help students see themselves reflected in the curriculum.

Activities aim to enhance the following objectives in a safe and healthy context:

- Connections
- Relationships
- Identifying individual and collective gifts/purposes
- Inclusion
- Positive Choices
- Student Voice
- Communities of Learners

As required by SAMHSA funding, we will evaluate CSKT Project AWARE programming, services, goals and objectives from October 1, 2021-September 30, 2026. The evaluation has been co-constructed through a partnership with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (Boston, MA). The goal of this evaluation is to learn about how CSKT Project AWARE is enhancing your child's classroom and school atmosphere, your child's learning, and your child's wellness.

During this time, your child's school may release certain directory information regarding your child to evaluators. Directory information will be limited to students': Name, State education agency ID, mailing address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, Date of birth, Gender, Ethnicity/Race/ Tribal Affiliation, Grade level and Classroom, and most recent educational agency or institution attended.

Additionally, students enrolled in grades 5-12 may also be asked to participate in surveys, videos, and/or interviews about their experiences with CSKT Project AWARE activities and services at school. Your student will receive a gift card for participating in the evaluation surveys.

Student participation is voluntary and students will be asked on each occasion for their permission to participate. If you are okay with your child participating, you do not need to do anything right now. If you do not want your child to participate, please respond to this letter, no later than Monday, November 13th, so that we can notify staff not to include your child in evaluation activities.

If you have any questions or concerns about CSKT Project AWARE or the evaluation, please contact:

Michelle Mitchell, Department Head
Tribal Education
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
(4060) 675-2700 ext.1342
Michelle.mitchell@cskt.org

Thanks for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Mike Cutler, Superintendent
Polson Public Schools