

SENATE BILL NO. 962

March 15, 2022, Introduced by Senators SCHMIDT and IRWIN and referred to the Committee on Education and Career Readiness.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
(MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 1168a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1168a. (1) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the
2 board of a school district or board of directors of a public school
3 academy is strongly encouraged to ensure that the school district's
4 or public school academy's core academic curriculum for grades 8 to
5 12 includes learning objectives concerning Indian boarding schools.

1 (2) As used in this section, "Indian boarding schools" means
2 entities that had or have as their purpose the cultural
3 assimilation of Indigenous children through the forceful relocation
4 of these children from their families and communities to distant
5 residential facilities where the children's American Indian, Alaska
6 Native, and Native Hawaiian identities, languages, and beliefs were
7 to be forcibly suppressed.

8 (3) It is the intent of the legislature that the amendatory
9 act that added this section serve as recognition of the following:

10 (a) That many Indigenous children spent the entirety of their
11 childhood in school systems without seeing their parents or
12 families for many years.

13 (b) That Indigenous children have suffered physical, sexual,
14 cultural, and spiritual abuse and neglect and have experienced
15 treatment that, in many cases, constituted torture for speaking
16 their native languages.

17 (c) That Indigenous children have lost their lives at Indian
18 boarding schools due to abuse, malnutrition, starvation, neglect,
19 inadequate medical care, and disease.