

Maḥpíya Lúta Owáyawa

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Position Description

Department: Schools

Reports To: President

Status: Full-Time, Exempt

Term: September 22, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Vision

To be a Thriving and Renowned Community of Learners Grounded in Lakḥóta and Catholic Beliefs, Values, and Practices.

Mission

To promote a thriving community of learners grounded in Lakḥóta and Catholic beliefs, values, and practices that cultivate our capacity to love and serve in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

Position Summary

The Superintendent serves as the chief educational executive of Maḥpíya Lúta Owáyawa Schools and provides visionary leadership for Mahpiya Luta Elementary & Middle Schools and Mahpiya Luta High School (main campus) and Our Lady of Lourdes K-8 (Porcupine campus). Reporting directly to the President, the Superintendent advances the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of the school system through excellence in academics, Lakḥóta language and culture, Catholic identity, student achievement, organizational leadership, operational effectiveness, and fiscal stewardship.

I. Executive Leadership

- Implements the organization's vision, mission, and strategic priorities
- Builds leadership capacity and promotes continuous improvement
- Serves on the Apostolic Team (A Team), the chief Maḥpíya Luta administrative body, along with the Executive VP, the heads of the 3 main ministries of Maḥpíya Luta (Schools, Chatku Arts Center, and Holy Rosary Parish), and the VP of Strategy & Planning
- Establishes and maintains regular communication with parents/families
- Serves as the liaison with Midwest Province of the Jesuits
- Works with the President and Principals to complete a self-assessment of Maḥpíya Luta Owayawa and present this report to the Province 6 weeks prior to the site visit on April 12-14, 2027

II. Instructional Leadership

- Maintains Mahpiya Luta's accreditation status by the South Dakota Department of Education
- Oversees school improvement planning
- Promotes professional development opportunities
- Hires new positions as needed
- Works closely with the 3 principals to

- understand the current state of instruction in the 3 schools to identify areas of success and identify areas for growth and improvement;
- foster a learning environment based on Lakḥóta and Catholic values and beliefs;
- understand the importance of Maḥpíya Luta's unique Lakḥóta language and culture revitalization programs and supports these efforts;
- promote a robust culture of excellence in the classroom and in all co-curricular activities;
- design concrete strategies for increasing students' academic achievements;
- ensure that all teachers are certified by the State of South Dakota;
- ensure implementation of approved curriculum, scope and sequence, instructional frameworks, and assessment systems;
- monitor student recruitment efforts to reach annual targets;
- monitor reasons for student attrition.

III. Leadership Development and Human Resources

- Recruits, hires, develops, and evaluates administrators and staff
- Builds leadership capacity and promotes professional growth
- Works collaboratively with Human Resources on personnel matters

IV. School Operations

- Works with the Student Transportation Manager regarding scheduling bus runs for schools and school-related activities, bus drivers, and student logistics
- Collaborates with A Team regarding facilities, safety, emergency preparedness, and operational planning
- Makes decisions regarding school closures and delays or designates another for this task

VI. Financial Stewardship

- Works with the Budget Committee to develop school district budgets
- Manages and oversees district budgets throughout the year to ensure responsible fiscal stewardship and resource allocation
- Supports grant implementation and financial compliance
- Manages school invoices and ensures timely payment

VI. Governance and Board Relations

- Serves as liaison to the Education Committee of the Board of Directors
- Implements Board policy and recommends revisions
- Supports institution-wide strategic planning
- Works with Board Education Committee Chair to schedule meetings—generally held quarterly—and set meeting agendas
- Prepares and submits Board reports 7-10 days in advance of meetings
- Attends quarterly Board meeting *ex officio*; presents to the Board upon request or with permission of the Chair

VII. Community Leadership

- Builds partnerships with families, tribal leaders, the parishes, and community organizations
- Communicates regularly families and staff regarding school matters
- Represents Maḥpíya Lúta locally, regionally, and nationally at events such as:
 - Lakḥóta Nation Invitational (LNI) (Rapid City, December 2026)
 - National Jesuit Schools Network Principals meeting (November 10-13, 2026, Denver)
 - Province-mandated Presidents/Principals meeting (March 9-12, 2027, Milwaukee)

VIII. Direct Supervision

- Assistant Superintendent
- Student Transportation Manager
- Extra duty staff
- IT Coordinator
- High School Principal
- K-8 Principal on the Main Campus
- Our Lady of Lourdes Principal on the Porcupine Campus
- Other positions assigned by the President

IX. Performance Expectations

Meets with the President on a regular basis to review the status of the following areas, indicating areas of strength and success as well as those in need of attention and improvement:

- Student Achievement and School Improvement
- Instructional Excellence
- Mission and Culture
- Leadership Development
- Operational Excellence
- Financial Stewardship
- Community Engagement including engagement with Tribal Education
- Compliance and Accountability
- Continuous Improvement: strategic planning, Provincial Review, and State Accreditation

X. Qualifications

- Supports and promotes revitalization of Lakḥóta language and culture and Catholic education in the Jesuit tradition
- Master's degree, or higher, in Educational Leadership or related field
- Superintendent certification
- 3+ years of Administrative leadership experience

Please send all materials and direct all questions to Fr. Dave Mastrangelo, SJ, President:

davidmastrangelo@mahpiyaluta.org