

Policy 6173.4: Education For American Indian Students

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

The Governing Board recognizes that American Indian students may have unique cultural, language, and educational needs that may be addressed by increasing student knowledge about American Indian history, including the history and culture of local tribes, and by providing American Indian students with access to education and other services necessary for such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all students with culturally relevant curriculum related to local American Indian tribes and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of American Indian students.

In order to discuss, gain a shared understanding of, and develop curriculum for use within the district, and to identify the extent and nature of any achievement gaps between American Indian students and other district students, and strategies to address any such gaps, the district may form a California Indian Education Task Force with tribes local to the region. Participants in the task force meetings may consider issues of mutual concern, which include: (Education Code 33391)

1. Developing a thorough, shared understanding of accurate, high-quality curricular materials about the history, culture, and government of local tribes, and developing such materials for use within the district that include tribal experiences and perspectives
2. Developing a shared understanding of proper or improper instructional materials when these materials use depictions of Native Americans
3. Encouraging the adoption of the curriculum developed by the California Indian Education Task Force
4. Identifying the extent and nature of any achievement gap between American Indian students and other students, and strategies necessary to close it

If formed, the California Indian Education Task Force shall, within one year and thereafter annually, submit a report to the California Department of Education on the findings, including progress of work on Items #1-4, above. (Education Code 33391)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify American Indian students most at-risk of not meeting state academic standards and provide to such students the needed support(s), including making referrals, as appropriate, for special education services or services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or other school-based services such as counseling and health services, supplemental instruction, before- or after-school services, and summer learning programs.

Suspension, expulsion, assignment to a supervised suspension classroom, or involuntary transfer to a continuation school of an American Indian student shall be in accordance with law and as specified in Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities), and 6184 - Continuation Education.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide programs to facilitate the successful transition of American Indian students to post-secondary education and employment, which may include college and career fairs in accordance with Labor Code 3074.2, mentorship programs, and counseling services.

As needed, the Superintendent or designee shall provide professional development to teachers and other school staff to assist them in understanding and responding to the unique needs of American Indian students.

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board on the outcomes of American Indian students including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates.

Title VI Indian Education Program

With the assistance of federal Title VI funding for the education of children from federally recognized tribes, the district shall offer programs and activities to meet the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of American Indian students, as defined in 20 USC 7491. Program objectives and outcomes shall be based on state academic standards. (20 USC 7424)

In developing, implementing, and evaluating Title VI programs and activities, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with and involve parents/guardians and family members of American Indian students and other community representatives. (20 USC 7424)

The district shall establish a committee that is composed of, and selected by, parents/guardians and family members of American Indian students, representatives of tribes on tribal lands located within 50 miles of any district school that serves any children of the tribes, teachers, and, if appropriate, American Indian students enrolled in secondary schools in the district. The majority of the committee shall be parents/guardians and family members of American Indian students. The committee shall participate in program development and provide written approval for the program. (20 USC 7424)

The district's Title VI program for American Indian education may include any of the following services and activities: (20 USC 7425)

1. Activities that support Native American language programs and Native American language restoration programs, which may be taught by traditional leaders
2. Culturally related activities that support the district's program
3. Early childhood and family programs that emphasize school readiness
4. Enrichment programs that focus on problem solving and cognitive skills development and directly support the attainment of state academic standards
5. Integrated educational services in combination with other programs that meet the needs of American Indian students and their families, including programs that promote parent/guardian involvement in school activities and increase student achievement
6. Career preparation activities that enable American Indian students to participate in career technical education programs, including programs for mentoring and apprenticeship
7. Activities to educate individuals so as to prevent violence, suicide, and substance abuse
8. The acquisition of equipment that is essential to achieve program goals
9. Activities that promote the incorporation of culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies into the district's educational program
10. Family literacy services
11. Activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of American Indian students, and incorporate appropriately qualified tribal elders and seniors
12. Dropout prevention strategies for American Indian students
13. Strategies to meet the educational needs of American Indian students in correctional facilities, including such strategies that support American Indian students who are transitioning from such facilities to schools served by the district

Any federal funds received to support American Indian education programs shall be used to supplement, not supplant, state or local funds allocated for such purposes. (20 USC 7424)

Program funds may be used to support a Title I schoolwide program pursuant to 20 USC 6314 if approved by the committee established pursuant to 20 USC 7424, provided that the schoolwide program is consistent with the purpose of American Indian education programs and the district's application identifies how the use of such funds in a schoolwide program will produce benefits to American Indian students that would not be achieved if not used in a schoolwide program. (20 USC 7424)

As needed, professional development shall be provided to teachers and other school staff to assist them in working with American Indian students and carrying out Title VI programs. (20 USC 7424)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of the information establishing the status of each student as an American Indian student eligible for assistance through the federal American Indian education program. (20 USC 7427)

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically assess the progress of all American Indian students, including American Indian students who do not participate in programs funded through Title VI, in meeting program goals and objectives. Assessment results shall be provided to the Board, the committee established pursuant to 20 USC 7424, tribes whose children are served by the district, and the community. (20 USC 7424)

The Five Points for Tribal Sovereignty curriculum development - from Washington State:

Elementary Outcomes

By the time Washington state students leave elementary school, they will:

1. Understand that over 500 independent tribal nations exist within the United States today and that they interact with the United States, as well as each other, on a government-to-government basis;
2. Understand tribal sovereignty is "a way that tribes govern themselves in order to keep and support their ways of life";
3. Understand that tribal sovereignty predates treaty times;
4. Understand how the treaties that tribal nations entered into with the United States government limited their sovereignty; and
5. Identify the names and locations of tribes in their area.

Middle School Outcomes

By the time Washington State students leave Middle school, they will:

1. that according to the US Constitution, treaties are "the supreme law of the land" consequently treaty rights supersede most state laws;
2. that Tribal sovereignty has cultural, political, and economic bases;
3. that Tribes are subject to federal law and taxes, as well as some state regulations;
4. that Tribal sovereignty is ever-evolving and therefore levels of sovereignty and status vary from Tribe to Tribe; and
5. that there were and are frequent and continued threats to Tribal sovereignty that are mostly addressed through the courts.

High School Outcomes

By the time Washington State students leave high school, they will:

1. recognize landmark court decisions and legislation that affected and continue to affect Tribal sovereignty;
2. understand that Tribal sovereignty protects Tribes' ways of life and the development of their nations;
3. understand that Tribal, state, and federal agencies often work together toward the same goal;
4. explain the governmental structure of at least one Tribe in their community; and
5. distinguish between federally and non-federally recognized Tribes.