



Indigenous Education Programming Updates

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INCLUSION

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American Indian Education Legislation



Districts, charter schools and tribal schools that report an American Indian student count of 20 or more students to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) are eligible to participate in the American Indian Education Aid program.

Currently, 337 students enrolled in SoWashCo Schools identify as Indigenous, making up about 2% of our student population.

American Indian Education Legislation



The intent of American Indian Education Aid is to enable districts and schools to enhance American Indian education programs and initiatives or, in the case of those newly eligible to receive aid and build sustainable programs that are culturally and academically tailored to American Indian students.



American Indian Education Legislation



Program Requirements:

- The district or school must have a minimum of 20 Native American students on the Oct. 1 MARSS reporting deadline.
- The district or school must have an American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC), or be working collaboratively with the Office of American Indian Education to form an AIPAC.
- Districts and schools that were required to have an AIPAC in the previous school year must have completed annual compliance.

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC)



- SoWashCo Schools' Native American Parent Committee is chaired by Robert Tweedy, and supported by Brittney Amitrano.
- To be compliant with this statutory requirement, districts are required to submit annual compliance documents to the Office of American Indian Education (OAIE) by March 1 of each year. Also known as the vote of concurrence or nonconcurrence, annual compliance is a valuable opportunity for AIPAC members to meet and discuss whether or not they concur with the educational offerings that have been extended by the district to American Indian students.
- We continue to work closely with this committee to ensure voice, shared decision-making, and accountability
- This committee made the decision to use the term "Indigenous Education" when referring to SoWashCo initiatives, which is why language may differ between SoWashCo Schools and the state legislature

American Indian Education Legislation



American Indian Legislation passed in 2023 positively impacted SoWashCo Schools in a number of ways, including:

- Prohibiting most American Indian mascots
- Allowing culturally significant Tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies
- Prioritizing Indigenous Education being embedded in academic standards and ethnic studies
- Further clarifying the use of state-identified American Indian students for school district counts

Legislative Highlights



Increase in state aid for SoWashCo Indigenous Education

- State aid for 2022–23: \$89,810
- State aid for 2023–24: \$198,500

This increase creates additional opportunities for more support districtwide for our Indigenous students.

Legislative Highlights



Dedicated Indigenous Education Coordinator

This full-time position is now posted and we are intending to hire as soon as possible

Primary roles include:

- 1-on-1 or small group student support
- Coordinating student academic supports
- Management of grants
- Creating classroom educational materials, professional development, tutoring opportunities, and community nights
- Consistent student and family contact and support

Goal Areas



Set by the state, our American Indian Education Aid application is governed by six areas of focus within Minnesota statute:

1. Support post-secondary preparation for students;
2. Support the academic achievement of American Indian students;
3. Make curriculum relevant to the needs, interests, and cultural heritage of American Indian students;
4. Provide positive reinforcement of the self-image of American Indian students;
5. Develop intercultural awareness among students, families, and staff;
6. Supplement (not supplant) state and federal educational and co-curricular programs.

Goal Areas



Area 1: Support Post-secondary Prep for Indigenous Students

Goal: The average composite ACT score for Indigenous students in the SoWashCo Schools will increase from 21.50 in 2020 to 22.50 in 2024.

Strategies Include

- Breakaway tutoring service for secondary students
- ACT prep class in April of 2024

4 Year Graduation Rates for Indigenous Students

SoWashCo Schools	State
2020: 91.7%	2020: 58.4%
2021: 72.7%	2021: 58.6%
2022: 95% <i>(5% continuing, 0 drop outs)</i>	2022: 61.3%

Goal Areas

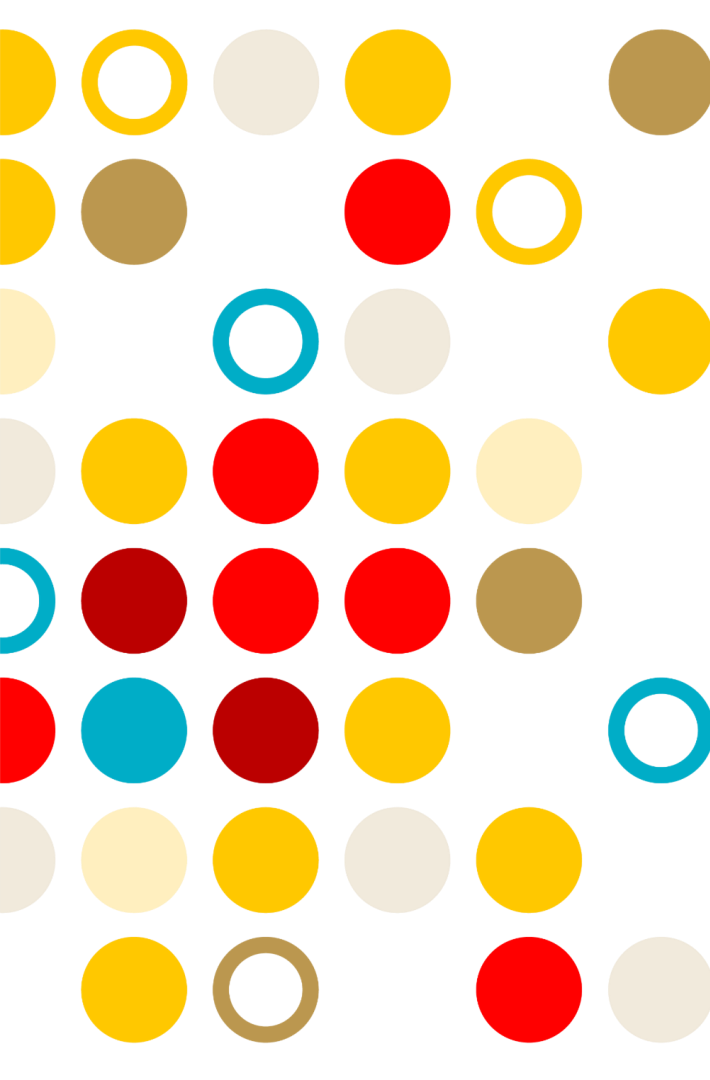


Area 2: Support the Academic Achievement of Indigenous Students

Goals: Increase literacy proficiency for Indigenous students to 50% on the 2024 Reading MCA (42.8% proficient on the Reading MCA in 2023)

Strategies Include

- Tutoring opportunities for Indigenous students

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Indigenous 1:1 Reading Connection Program

- 1:1 Reading Connection Program is meant to grow and support a strong foundation in reading for Indigenous students in elementary school.
- This program includes 1:1 support for engaging Indigenous elementary students in reading with culturally-relevant text and strategies.



Indigenous 1:1 Reading Connection Program

- Over the past two years, students involved in the program have averaged a .66 year of growth, according to their IRLA.
- Students who have participated both of the last two years have averaged 1 year of growth, according to their IRLA
- MAP Reading scores for students involved over two years also increased

Goal Areas



Area 3: Make Curriculum Relevant to the Needs, Interests, and Cultural Heritage of Indigenous Students

Goal: We will ensure the professional development offerings, resources, texts, and training regarding historically and culturally responsive teaching are available to 100% of SoWashCo licensed teaching staff over the 2023-24 school year

Strategies Include

- Cultural learning trunks
- Training opportunities for staff
- Responsive text options/libraries

Goal Areas



Areas 4-6:

- Provide Positive Reinforcement of the Self-Image of Indigenous Students
- Develop intercultural awareness among students, families, and staff
- Supplement (not supplant) state and federal educational and co-curricular programs

District goals are currently being revised to fit district needs based on feedback from our community

Strategies Include

- Cultural liaison support (both 1-on-1 and group)
- Active AIPAC
- Cultural field trips
- Family engagement events
- Land Acknowledgement and Tribal Flag Ceremonies

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**Thank you for supporting
Indigenous Education in SoWashCo
Schools**