



# American Indian Education

## Additional Education Programs for Indigenous Children

### American Indian Education Act

The Federal Indian Education Act was created to make sure that Indigenous students get a complete and inclusive approach in their education. The goal is to help schools improve the achievement of Indigenous students, empower parents, and recognize the importance of Indigenous culture.

The Federal Act created the Office of Indian Education (OIE) and the National Advisory Council to help schools manage Indian Education.



Learn more about this at <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/oese/oie>.

In Minnesota we have a similar law called the American Indian Education Act. The goal of this law is to:

- Make sure Indigenous students get a quality education.
- Support academic achievement of Indigenous students. And
- Respectfully teach the rich culture and history of Indigenous people.

MDE Site: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/>.

### Education Programs

American Indian education programs are extra, voluntary programs that are designed to meet the needs of Indigenous students.

Programs can look like:

- Cultural enrichment courses
- Postsecondary preparation for students – getting ready for college
- Seasonal cultural events
- Language education, and more!

## Parent Advisory Committee

School districts with 10 or more Indigenous students must have an advisory committee of Indigenous community members.

Most of the committee members must be parents or guardians of the Indigenous students in the school or program. They make suggestions about curriculum and the educational needs of Indigenous children.

Learn more about parent advisory committees at:  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/parent/>.



## Tribal Consultation

Some schools have to work with Tribes. Tribal officials must have the chance to play a part in developing programs. Talking about ideas with tribes should happen at the earliest possible stage. It should happen before developing a program, initiative, or policy. This rule is in the 'Every Student Succeeds Act.' Read more about it at:  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/tribal/>.

## American Indian Education Aid

School districts with 20 or more Indigenous students may apply for funding from the Minnesota Department of Education for cultural education programs and other services.

The school district must submit a plan outlining how the money would be spent. It should focus on activities and programs that benefit their Indigenous students. Read more about it at:  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/tribnatmn/>.



*Developed in collaboration with the SMRLS' Education Law Advocacy Project (ELAP).*

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