

American Indian Education

Additional education programs for Indigenous children



Education Law
Advocacy Project

American Indian Education Act

The Federal Indian Education Act was created to provide a comprehensive approach in educating Indigenous students. The goal is to help schools improve the achievement of Indigenous students, empower parents, and recognize the importance of Indigenous culture. The Federal Act established the Office of Indian Education and the National Advisory Council to help schools administer Indian Education. Federal OIE Site: ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/history.html

In Minnesota we have a similar law called the American Indian Education Act. The goal of this law is to provide quality education to Indigenous students, support academic achievement of Indigenous students, and respectfully teach the rich culture and history of Indigenous people. Minn. Stat. § 124D.71-82

Parent Advisory Committee

School districts with 10 or more Indigenous students must have an advisory committee of Indigenous community members. The majority of committee members must be parents or guardians of the Indigenous students in the education program. Their role is to make recommendations about curriculum and the educational needs of Indigenous children enrolled in the school or program.

Minn. Stat. § 124D.78;
MDE Site: education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/

American Indian Education Aid

School districts with 20 or more Indigenous students may apply to receive funding for cultural education programs and other services.

The applicant must submit a plan outlining how the money would be spent on activities and programs that benefit their Indigenous students.

Minn. Stat. § 124D.81;

Tribal Consultation

Some schools are required to collaborate and consult with Tribes.

Tribal officials should have the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the development of programs.

Consultation with tribes should occur at the earliest possible stage, prior to the development of a program, initiative, or policy.

20 USC § 7918 (Every Student Succeeds Act);
List of consulting schools at MDE Site: education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/indian/tribal/

Education Programs

American Indian education programs are supplemental, voluntary programs that are tailored to the needs of Indigenous students.

Programs can look like:

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

Minn. Stat. § 124D.74

This fact sheet provides a general statement of the law and is not legal advice.

The Education Law Advocacy Project of Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services provides free legal services to families with low-income, in our service area.

If you need help, please contact our intake line (877) 696-6529. You will be screened for eligibility



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