Improving Data Management Systems for American Indian Students

Why this is Needed

Accurate student data is essential to inform, engage, and instruct students. At a minimum, student data monitoring must include attendance, behavior, academic progress, and graduation plans (for HS students). Accurate student data increases the reliability in identifying those students most at risk of dropping out and allows the district to provide interventions in a timely manner. Data can be easily uploaded into the Montana Early Warning System (EWS) and viewed through the GEMS site. Instructions on uploading your student data into GEMS is on the AISA webpage (see resources). Monthly data upload is recommended to ensure timeliness of the data.

A survey of multiple schools in Montana taken in December 2020 revealed the percentage of Native American students missing data was over 58.4%. This rate compares with a 3.9% rate of students missing data statewide. This means the data collection across Montana is not telling the true story of our American Indian students.

Strategies for Using American Indian Student Achievement Gap Funding to Improve Outcomes

- Implement monthly district upload of the Early Warning System (EWS) into GEMS to identify those students most at risk of dropping out and allow the district to provide interventions in a timely manner.
- Develop monthly data report template to share student data trends with staff and board of trustees.
- Develop attendance plans and tracking systems that are restorative based and include a student support specialist that tracks the high absentee students and the students that transition in and out of other districts.
- Ensure districts have consistent grading (weights and calculations) systems and that grades are posted weekly by teachers to ensure an accurate attendance tracking system is in place. It is important for leaders to require grades be posted daily in all subjects and is a norm for the data collection system.
- Train guidance counselors in grading systems and transcript audits to ensure student's grades are posted to their transcripts and students are on track with their graduation plans.

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Resources

- [Uploading the Early Warning System Infinite Campus District Edition Users](#)
- [GEMS](#)
- [What Works Clearinghouse](#)
- [Data Quality Campaign – Why Education Data](#)

Examples of Professional Development for Staff (PD/PIR)

- Infinite Campus Training
- Lesson Planning
- Assessments/Grading
- Attendance Policy Training
- Behavior Tracking
- Data Monitoring
- Early Warning System
- Data-driven Decision Making

References

Wallace Knowledge Center, ["Strategy 5 – The Three Essentials: Improving Schools."](#)

[Montana Early Warning System Manual](#). Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2021.