

Language and Culture in the Classroom



Tribal Student Achievement, Relations and Resiliency



The State of Language and Culture Efforts

Voice of Youth and Tribal Communities

Language Grants

Professional Development Opportunities

Keeping Our Youth In Schools

Previous studies show that among Als, enculturation is protective against suicidal ideation and other factors linked to suicidality, such as depression, alcohol abuse, and alienation from family and community (Grossman, Milligan, & Deyo, 1991; Whitbeck, Adams, Hoyt, & Chen, 2004; Whitbeck, McMorris, Hoyt, Stubben, & LaFromboise, 2002; Yoder et al., 2006).

Youth who have a strong cultural identity were more likely to experience good mental health outcomes. Discrimination has a serious negative impact on youth mental health.

One of the most commonly mentioned factors was having knowledge of the tribal language. The tribal language is the primary means of teaching cultural values and customs.

The strongest predictor of higher levels of resilience was enculturation. For each increment in enculturation, the youth were 1.8 times more likely to be resilient. These findings are consistent with recent research that documents the notion that greater engagement in the traditional culture may lead to more positive outcomes for the children (Gonzales, Knight, Birman, & Sirolli, 2003; Huriwai, 2002; Lalonde, 2003; Zimmerman et al., 1998), LaFromboise *et al.* in *Journal of Community Psychology* 34 (2006).

Language and Culture are connected

Aligned with Tribal Approach to Education

- Aligning Tribal Language Proficiency Standards
- Aligning Tribal Land Based Learning Opportunities
- Listening to Youth Advocates and Connecting Them With Resources (Ex. KKIN)

Identity & Culture as Protective Factors for At-Risk Students

- Expanding the Understanding and Relevance of Tribal Family Support
- Providing Youth with Relevant and Engaging Work

Identity & Culture as Behavioral Interventions

- Cultural Practices such as Smudging or Sweating Are Proven Positive Interventions
- Cultural Teaching Centers on Responsibility to Self and Community

Stakeholder Integration Tribal Model of Engagement

- Supporting Class 7 Development and Placement
- Organizing Indigenous Cultural Events for All
- Continued Consultation Meetings With Tribes/Education Departments
- Consultation with Larger/Urban Districts

Montana Indian Language Program

Transferred From Dept. Of Commerce

- Worked with Tribal Communities to finish projects/deliverables.

Close-Outs

- Worked with OPI staff in Finance and Grants to secure funding/close-outs

Coordinate Going Forward

- Coordinating with MILP recipients as we moved the grant to OPI's E-Grants system.
- E-Grants will better track our progress
- Resources posted to our webpage

Promote the Results

- Work with Tribes to track progress and promote the work done from the program
- Seek ways to expand the availability of the resources as well as professional development opportunities to engage other educators
- Partner for Online Learning Opportunities

Indian Language Immersion Program

Recipients:

November 2021 (FY 2022):

- Browning Public School District
- Hardin Public School District

November 2022 (FY 2023):

- Browning Public School District
- Hardin Public School District
- Hays-Lodgepole
- Box Elder

Transfer to the OPI has helped increase awareness of ILIP across Montana and the availability of Class 7 technical assistance.



Consultation

- ❖ Ongoing, in-person visits with Tribes have focused on the foundational needs that contribute to Heritage Language teaching in the classrooms, including:
 - ❖ Class 7 Certification processes and Memorandums of Understanding with the Tribes
 - ❖ Tribes developing the criteria for certification, OPI supports these processes
 - ❖ Developing more opportunities for Class 7 Professional Development
 - ❖ Assisting Administrators who are interested in utilizing Class 7 educators
 - ❖ Resolutions regarding Language and Culture work
 - ❖ Technical Assistance/Interfacing between Tribes/Education Committees and State agencies
 - ❖ Building awareness of language grants and other opportunities
 - ❖ Assistance with Curriculum Planning/Development and Assessment

Consultation:

- Ongoing topics of discussion:
 - Infrastructure needs: Housing (Space needs), Stabilized Funding Streams
 - School Board Training: Information and training sessions regarding Indigenous perspectives and legal status as students/staff
 - Communities developing orthographies and dictionaries
 - Access to old MILP deliverables at the Montana Historical Society
 - Partnerships with Tribal Colleges
 - Intertribal partnerships/Community Partnerships
 - Recognition of past and present Heritage Language Educators
 - Partnership with Montana Digital Academy
 - “Grow Your Own” teacher preparation and training from within the communities
 - Expanding Educator Preparation Requirements for Teachers in Indigenous communities
 - Strengthening Consultation Requirements/Expectations with neighboring communities

Professional Development

- Presentations and Trainings in conjunction with other educators
 - Montana Federation of Public Employees annual conference
 - Indian Education For All Best Practices
 - Montana Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute
 - TSARRU Youth Education Conference (2023)
- Webpage with Resources for:
 - Calendar of Events & Language Sites/Resources
 - Language Dictionaries and Reference Guides
 - Language Apps for iPhone and Android
 - Land and Culture Resources
 - Multilingual Learner Support
 - Class 7 American Indian Language and Culture Specialist
 - Contemporary Initiatives and Historical Resolve
 - News and History
 - MILP Tribal Deliverable Access
 - Indian Language Preservation Program
 - Tribal Education Culture Committees and Representatives
 - Tribal College Links

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Tribal Consultation

Culture & Language

Student Mental Well-being

Youth Voice

AmeriCorps Youth Initiative

