

Indian Education

The Indian Education Division provides leadership, education, guidance and resources to school districts, students, parents and educational agencies and organizations in the state of Montana and serves two purposes. The first is to assure that the 16,724 American Indian students in Montana’s public schools receive a quality and equitable education as provided for by Montana Code Annotated 20-9-330, which directed funds to school districts for the purpose of closing the achievement gap. The second purpose is to assure that all students leave the public education system with an understanding of the rich history and contemporary issues of Montana’s Indians per the state's Constitution.

Within the Indian Education Division,

The Indian Student Achievement Program:

- Analyzes American Indian student and school-level data to monitor and improve the learning of American Indian students in Montana.
- Monitors current educational research and best practices to assist schools in closing achievement gaps and designing and implementing school improvement efforts.
- Develops effective strategies to reduce Indian student dropout rates and increase completion rates.
- Identifies and conducts training for educators in developing and implementing exemplary Indian education best practices.
- Administers the Title III English Language Acquisition Program of No Child Left Behind, which provides funding for supplemental services to limited English proficient students, the majority of whom are American Indian students.

The Indian Education for All Program:

- Provides high quality professional development (on-site, state conferences, etc.), materials and support to schools on the implementation of “Indian Education for All” (MCA 20-1-501).
- Administers and supports sub-grant opportunities to schools and educators to enhance the implementation of Indian Education for All efforts at the local level.
- Partners and collaborates with organizations, entities and consortia to assist in providing professional development, creating materials and resources, and the overall implementation of Indian Education for All.
- Provides staff support and resources for the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education’s Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE).
- Distributes information on current American Indian education issues to the public.