



Best Practices in Tribal Consultation

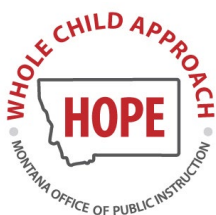
The Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to consult with appropriate officials from Indian tribes or tribal organizations that are approved by the tribes located in the area served by the LEA, Section 8538(a). Consultation with Indian tribes or tribal organizations must be timely and meaningful on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native students. It must be done in a manner and time that provides the opportunity for appropriate officials from Indian tribes or tribal organizations to contribute in a substantive manner. As part of a meaningful consultation process, the following best practices should be taken into consideration.

1. Voluntarily or upon request, provide tribal leaders with:

- a. Copies of previous education plans.
- b. Contact information for district personnel or members of committees.
- c. Presentations from state or local representatives about existing programs so that tribes have clarity regarding how the programs operate in the local, district, or state context.
- d. Information on additional meetings to discuss the education plans or programs.
- e. Information on the evidence on which planned activities are based.
- f. Previous reports and evaluations on education plan or program outcomes.

2. Consider the following:

- a. Specify timing, frequency, and attendance of meetings.
- b. Include provisions for participation on specific boards or committees, which may include developing reports or materials to be provided prior to the meeting.
- c. Establish partnerships between LEAs and tribal communities to approve, create, or supplement curriculum for teaching and learning about Indian tribes and local communities.
- d. Create or deliver professional development for teachers and staff on American Indian history, culture, tribal sovereignty, and/or best practices in working with American Indian students, families, communities, and nations.
- e. Remember to establish and keep an open communication. Communication is key during and after consultation, including family information nights, fiscal and general meetings, data transparency, and data sharing agreements.
- f. Make sure to include topics related to special education such as disparities in identification and who will be involved in student individualized education program meetings.



- g. Have a logistics plan that may include transportation to and from educational programs, sharing agreements for computer hardware and software, funding, adjusting school calendars to account for culturally relevant functions, and other logistics that were part of most agreements.

For further information please contact one of the following:

Zach Hawkins
Federal Programs Director
Montana Office of Public Instruction
zachariah.hawkins@mt.gov
406-444-3083
