



### [Tribal Relations and Resiliency Website](#)

#### **Relationship building through inclusive Voice**

The Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit (TRRU) was developed to build relationships and understandings within the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and Montana school districts to incorporate **Tribal voice**, share resources and build connections through consultation on matters affecting American Indian students.

#### **ESSA and Tribal Consultation**

Consultation, defined within ESSA requirements, we work to create opportunities for school districts and tribal leaders to work collaboratively for the benefit of our youth. Under section 8538 of the ESEA for Tribal Consultation, a school district or system that have either 50% or more of its student enrollment made up of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students; or received an Indian education formula grant under Title VI of the ESSA, as amended by the ESSA, in the previous fiscal year that exceeded \$40,000, and which also educate AI/AN students are to consult with local Indian tribes or tribal organizations prior to submitting a plan or application under covered ESEA (ESSA) formula grant programs. [Tribal Consultation Guidance document](#)

#### **Resiliency and Youth Care – Montana OPI Systems of Care Tribal Wrap Around Project**

This project is committed to enhancing systems through collaborative partnerships in order to better serve youth and families. We ensure that services are family-driven, youth-guided, and fit within the cultural framework of the individual youth and their families. Philosophy of Wrap Around for Our Children: *"...I think you will see that what mainstream society is calling the wraparound process is nothing new to Indian country. In fact, people have been doing this for centuries. The wraparound process tries to find a balance between the natural supports and professional services in your community to implement strength based individual plans of care to meet the needs of the children and families you are serving..."* ~ Jon Eagle, Hunkpapa Lakota, Wraparound Coach

**Relational Circle and Restorative Practice teams have been created and are available for trainings and support.**

#### **[Tribal Resource Guide](#)**

The Tribal Resource Guide is an online, searchable database with categories of support, resources, and cultural connections. This database was developed to identify and share existing support and local resources in collaboration to better serve and respectfully honor existing efforts in our rural and reservation communities. The Tribal Nations can join forces with State agencies and OPI to effectively support local youth and families.

#### **RISE – (Resiliency In Something Else) – Youth Leadership Team**

RISE was developed to create a place for youth to virtually connect during covid. To build relationships, share ideas and provide support of each other. It is an innovative youth led conversation on how technology can be used to better student educational experience and to connect to likeminded peers. Virtual Youth Leadership meetings happen every two weeks as students from across the state develop and continue to improve the Music, Gaming, Leadership and Indigenous Worldview committees. Leadership development is a constant as students create agendas, products, and presentation's inclusive of their experience, their perspective, and their passion.

#### **Elder and Cultural Wisdom Council (ECWC)**

The ECWC will assist internal OPI departments and support external strategies of cultural inclusion by following traditional protocol and guidance. As we look to support our youth initially through culture, self-identity, and wellness, we have experienced that grade improvement will follow. This Council provides guidance, as we develop a foundation for life by providing character development and integrity through value shared knowledge and lessons. ECWC offers us the rooted universal and land-based knowledge of our Tribal Nations to help build strong, centered, and connected Students for a better and heathier future for our Tribes, State and Nation.

