American Indian Heritage Days 2022
September 23 and September 30

September 2022 provides Montana educators with a unique opportunity to celebrate American Indian Heritage Day twice. Occasionally September has five Fridays which results in two days designated as American Indian Heritage Day.

In 1997, the Montana Legislature passed into law MCA 20-1-306, designating the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Heritage Day. Under this law, schools are to conduct “appropriate exercises during the school day.”

In 2009, MCA 1-1-228 was signed into law designating the last Friday in September as, American Indian Heritage Day for the state of Montana for all Montanans to “(1) reflect on American Indian culture and heritage; and (2) celebrate American Indians and their culture and heritage. . ..”

Ideas for American Indian Heritage Day

Activities that celebrate American Indian Heritage Day can create sustained interest in learning about the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians, setting the tone and creating connections for a year of integrating Indian Education for All.

Please visit the Indian Education Website or contact Indian Education staff for resources to support your American Indian Heritage Day activities. Share your schools American Indian Heritage Day activities and send us your pictures, email them to Joan Franke - jfranke@mt.gov

This year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Montana Constitution and reaffirm our unique constitutional commitment to implement Indian Education for All.

"The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity."

✓ Utilize this lesson plan for teaching about the Montana State Constitution and Indian Education for All

✓ Social Studies Standards (2021) Indian Education for All Connections. The new Social Studies Standards provide educators with an excellent opportunity to integrate Indian Education for All in K-12 Social Studies instruction. One powerful example of these standards is that now all 4th Grade students will (a) identify tribes in Montana by their original and current names.

✓ Share this video with students and have them practice saying tribal names. Tribes of Montana and How They Got Their Names
✓ Invite tribal members to share their cultural traditions and stories. Bring in virtual guest speakers. Utilize websites like Montanatribes.org to hear from cultural resource experts from Montana tribal nations. View resources from other states with Indian Education for All initiatives such as the Wolakota Project and the Native Memory Project. Invite a guest speaker from the Speakers in the Schools program from Humanities Montana.

✓ Sign up for the Native Filmmaker Initiative Film Club, a virtual youth education outreach program that screens a curated selection of Indigenous-made documentary films in classrooms across the state of Montana.

✓ The Montana Historical Society has a new textbook Montana: A History of Our Home for grades 4-6. This text provides an inclusive look at our state’s history and is available on-line. In addition, MHS has developed a study guide for each chapter that offers engaging lessons on Montana history, geography, civics and government, and economics.

**On-Line Virtual Professional Development Opportunities**

✓ Boarding School Webinar Series The purpose of this series is to provide an in-depth exploration of the Boarding School era and its history and implications.

✓ Visit our IEFA YouTube Channel and access free professional development videos regarding ethnobotany and teaching the Essential Understandings and be sure to check out previous Best Practices presentations to hear from teachers sharing their IEFA instructional strategies.

Indian Education for All **hub courses**

✓ An Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana

✓ Teaching and Learning About Contemporary Issues in Indian Country

✓ Bison Restoration and Tribal Sovereignty in Montana

✓ How to Use The Framework: A Practical Guide for Implementing IEFA

✓ Indian Education & Math Seamless Integration