

Important Dates in Indian Education in Montana

1864: First Missionary School in Montana is opened to serve American Indians in St. Ignatius (present day Flathead Reservation)

1947: Montana's public school required to allow American Indian students to attend the state's public schools.

1972: Constitutional Convention Meets in Helena, MT — New document includes language specific to preserving the cultural integrity of the state's tribal nations.

1973: State enacts the Indian Studies Law requiring all teachers ... but later repeals it

1975: The State Board of Education convened educators to create an Indian Culture Master Plan, which outlined a plan to enrich the background of public school personnel in Native American cultures

1984: The first school funding lawsuit, *Helena School Dist. v. State*, found that the Indian Education clause in the Montana Constitution "establishes a special burden in Montana for the education of American Indian children that must be addressed as a part of the school funding issues."

1984: The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) was created to act in an advisory capacity to the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education.

1990: Indian educators gathered and created a State Plan, which outlined action steps for all the major stakeholders in Indian Education.

1997: State Legislature passes American Indian Heritage Day Law.

1999: State legislature, in accordance with the state Constitution, passes Indian Education for All Law (Montana Code Annotated 20-1-501, 1999).

2000: The OPI brings Indian educators together and they create the Essential Understandings Regarding American Indians

2004: Montana Quality Education Coalition sues state over the unconstitutionality of its school funding scheme (*Columbia Falls vs. State*).

2005: Legislature defines "quality education" and that definition includes IEFA.

2005: State legislature funds Indian Education for All.

1864

1947

1972

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