



Understanding and Identifying Quality IEFA Materials

Are you wanting to increase IEFA (Indian Education for All) integration in your classroom, but not sure where to find materials or concerned about using materials that are inaccurate and inappropriate? You are not alone. Lots of other educator's grapple with this situation as well.

Instructional Planning and support

The OPI IEFA team works collaboratively with tribes, tribal experts, the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) and other tribal members to offer high quality, tribally specific, culturally authentic, and historically accurate classroom materials, curated resources, and instructional planning support. Here is how we can help:

- Many materials are free and available on the [OPI IEFA website](#).
- The OPI IEFA team hosts webinars on the first and third Tuesdays of each month that increase teacher background knowledge, offer content specific curriculum integration ideas, and provide opportunities to ask questions.
- An annual IEFA Best Practices Conference is offered to provide high quality, IEFA specific professional development and instructional design support. Further information about these and other events can be found on the [Upcoming Events/PD page](#) of the IEFA website.

High-Quality Materials

The IEFA team has developed an [IEFA Materials Evaluation Guide](#) which can help you develop a deeper understanding of which IEFA materials are high quality and which ones are not. Once you have a solid understanding, you will be able to increase the number and variety of IEFA resources you utilize in your IEFA teaching and learning activities, enhancing your students' understandings regarding Montana and American Indians.

However, it is reasonable to assume there may be circumstances where you might still be uncertain about the authenticity or appropriateness of a resource. In this situation, the OPI IEFA team advises the following steps of action:

- Utilize the resource evaluation form on **pages 21 and 22 of the OPI IEFA Materials Evaluation Guide** (See link above).
- Consult with an experienced educator, IEFA champion, or IEFA coordinator in your building or your district.
- Check and see if the resource has been reviewed by the [American Indian Children's Literature Blogspot](#). **This is also a great site to review when considering the purchase of new IEFA materials.**
- Contact a member of the OPI IEFA team and ask them if they would recommend the resource or not. Please note that team member office hours can be found on the [Meet The Team page](#) of the IEFA website.



Understanding how to identify and where to find high quality IEFA materials is vital for effective IEFA instruction. Teachers and administrators should always work to improve their resource review and evaluation skills. However, you do not have to do it alone. Our IEFA team is always ready to provide you with the training, materials, and guidance you need or point you to the appropriate place(s).

Please reach out if you have any questions. We are here to support you.

Mike Jetty, IEFA Specialist: mjetty@mt.gov; 406-444-0720

Jennifer Stadum, IEFA Specialist: jstadum@mt.gov; 406-444-0725

