



School-wide Actualized Culture and Self Identity

Native Language Immersion Guidance

Why this is Needed

The Native American child continues to be the most overlooked and misinterpreted in research related to intellectual assessment. Research continues to report the low scores that the Native American child obtains on national tests and assessments. These results need to be challenged and modified to fit the unique learning and cognitive processes of the Native American child. Kipp, Indigenous paradigm (2000). In an Immersion program, schools have the ability to build programs to fit such needs of learning styles to cater to Native American children using their unique culture and language. What does an Immersion program look like? By implementing an indigenous pedagogy stemming from the bio-cultural diversity of the community in which is the student is from, school districts have opportunity to increase positive self-identity of students.

Strategies for Using American Indian Student Achievement Gap Funding to Improve Outcomes

- Designing Educational curriculums to fit the learning styles of American Indian students
- Developing place-based learning activities using the unique culture and language of the students and the relationships with the environment
- Incorporating language plans in the district and school that all staff uses such as command words or conversational phrases.
- Developing and implementing community-wide language plans that are connected to the district language plan
- Incorporating language into mainstream curriculum to further language acquisition
- Using language throughout the physical design of the school such incorporating dual language signs in restrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, classrooms.
- Purchasing tools and supports such as games and language kits that will assist teachers in language acquisition
- Using funds to hire elders or fluent speakers in the community to tell stories or teach language through ceremonies



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Resources

- [The Piegan Institute](#)
- [Ayaprun Elitnaurvik - Yup'ik Immersion School](#)
- [Native American Community Academy](#)
- [Waadookodaading](#)
- [Advocacy Award Recipient Webinar Series: Contemporary Topics in Indian Country](#)
- [Education Counts - New Zealand](#)
- [Bilingual Education in Aotearoa, New Zealand](#)
- [Critical Culturally Sustaining/Revitalizing Pedagogy and Indigenous Education Sovereignty - Harvard Education Review](#)
- [Grants to support language immersion - First Nations Development Institute](#)
- [Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition](#)
- [Indigenous Language Immersion Curriculum Development](#)

Examples of Professional Development for Staff (PD/PIR)

- Instructional Strategies – Total Physical Response
- Instructional Strategies – Indigenous Language Phonics
- Utilizing Indigenous Language Immersion Program (ILIP) properly with your immersion program
- Understanding how to use Montana Indigenous Language Program (MILP) within your school system
- Development of Indigenous language curriculum
- Place-based learning activities in the classroom
- Social and emotional understandings and healing from historical and generational trauma
- Culture inclusion strategies and activities to utilize within the classroom

References

Kipp, Billie Jo. [*Psychological Aspects of Native Children in a Blackfeet Language and Culture Program: The Immersion Paradigm*](#). Missoula, MT: University of Montana, 2000