



MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
ADVISORY TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MACIE Position Statement:
On the Display of Montana Tribal Flags in Montana Public Schools

It is the goal of the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) to ensure the education of Boards of Trustees, administrators, teachers, staff, and community members who serve American Indian students and families within the state of Montana regarding the legal responsibilities and educational commitments established under the Montana Constitution and the Indian Education for All (IEFA) mandate.

Article X, Section 1(2) of the Montana Constitution affirms:

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

This constitutional language is operationalized through Indian Education for All (MCA 20-1-501), which requires that every Montanan, whether Indian or non-Indian, learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive and accurate manner.

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education **supports and encourages the display of the Tribal flags of the Twelve Tribal Nations of Montana** in public school spaces is an important and visible demonstration of this constitutional commitment. Representation matters. The presence of Tribal flags affirms the sovereignty of Tribal Nations, honors the first peoples of this land, and provides daily visual acknowledgment of the living cultures, governments, and histories that remain integral to Montana.

MACIE recommends and advises all Montana school buildings to:

- Display the official flags of the Twelve Tribal Nations of Montana in prominent public spaces within school buildings, including but not limited to entrances, board rooms, libraries, and gymnasiums.
- Utilize allocated Indian Education for All (IEFA) funds to purchase Tribal flags and seek accompanying educational materials, as this action directly supports the intent and implementation of IEFA.
- Provide age-appropriate instruction regarding the history, sovereignty, and contemporary presence of each Tribal Nation represented.
- Collaborate with local Tribal representatives, communities, and the Office of Public Instruction to ensure respectful and accurate display and interpretation.

Through awareness, representation, and action, Montana schools can more fully honor both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution.

Thank You,

Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education