



August 7, 2023

- 1. Please provide any information about Native American population engagement. Beyond the survey sent out, was there any communication or translation or anything we have done to engage with our Native population?**

Beyond the stakeholder survey, Superintendent Arntzen consulted with the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education (MACIE) on April 4, 2023 to discuss and seek questions and comments regarding the Montana Alternative Student Testing (MAST) Program and Waiver. Superintendent Arntzen then followed up with MACIE on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to share the final waiver submission. MACIE was established by the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction to function in an advisory capacity for the education of American Indian students in Montana. MACIE is a strong voice for collaborative efforts among tribal, state, and federal organizations, institutions, groups, and agencies for the express purpose of promoting high quality and equitable educational opportunities for all American Indian students in Montana. This includes, but is not limited to, culture, language, and Indian Education for All. Appointments to MACIE are based on nominations from Indian tribes, Indian organizations, major education organizations in which Indians participate, and schools where American Indian students and adults attend. Below are the agendas and MACIE meeting minutes.

MACIE April 4, 2023: [Agenda](#), [Meeting Minutes](#)

MACIE May 3, 2023: [Agenda](#), [Meeting Minutes](#)

- 2. They would like to confirm that students that were taking the alternate assessment will continue to take that alternate assessment, not the New Meridian assessments.**

The OPI assures its districts, families, students, teachers, policymakers, and the USED that students with significant cognitive disabilities will continue to take the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) ELA and math alternate assessment in place of the Smarter Balanced test in grades 3-8 and the ACT with Writing test in grade 11. The OPI confirms that students with significant cognitive disabilities will not participate in the MAST field tests.

