



American Indian Education Program Update

Presented to the School Board on September 28, 2026
By Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent
Kevin Sheridan, Educational Equity Coordinator
Nell Barri, American Indian Education Coordinator

Purpose



The goals of our American Indian Education program are twofold:

- First, to increase **educational access** and **opportunity** for our American Indian students in order to increase their **academic achievement** and **graduation rates**
- Second, to **improve the school climate** for PreK-12 American Indian students through (a) both intra- and intercultural awareness and (b) the cultural relevance of materials, programs, and activities

Addresses 4-Way Equity Test: providing opportunities for students who have been historically underserved, underrepresented and disadvantaged by the current system; ensures the same rigorous standards for academic performance that exist for all students.

American Indian Education Aid - MDE



A school district enrolling at least 20 American Indian students on October 1 of the previous school year is eligible for Indian Education Aid from the state.

	Student Count	Indian Ed. Aid
2023-2024	91	\$75,500
2024-2025	173	\$116,500
2025-2026	161	\$110,500
2026-2027	161	\$110,500

Our Journey



Evolution of the American Indian Cultural Liaison Position

- **21-22 and 22-23**
 - Regular turnover in the halftime liaison position
 - Hired a full time liaison in April 2023
- **23-24**
 - Full time liaison led programming activities
- **24-25, 25-26, 26-27**
 - American Indian Education Coordinator position carrying out a comprehensive program

2025-2026 Accomplishments

- Native Student Groups established at all schools
- Summer backpack giveaway
- End of the Year Celebration & Senior Honoring
- University of Minnesota and Augsburg Tours
- Consistent programming → greater involvement
- Literacy support and resources
- Cultural field trips



English	Ojibwe	Lakota/Dakota
1. Hello	1. Boozhoo / Aaniin	1. Hau / Han
2. Spring	2. Ziigwan	2. Wétu
3. March	3. Onaabani Giizis	3. Ištánwíchayozan Wí
4. Sage	4. Bashkodejiibik	4. Phezíhota
5. Sweetgrass	5. Wiingashk	5. Wáchángǵa
6. Cedar	6. Giizhik	6. Hanté
7. A Bead	7. Manidoominens	7. Pšithó

American Indian Education Program Plan



Support Postsecondary Preparation for American Indian Pupils

Goal: The number of TRHS American Indian students participating in at least one AIEP college readiness activity will increase from 19 students to 25 students in the 2026-2027 school year.

Strategies:

- All American Indian 12th graders will be invited to participate in an American Indian scholarship night
- College tours to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Red Lake Nation College, and Augsburg University
- ACT preparation sessions, ACT prep books, and AP study guides offered to all American Indian students
- Celebrate American Indian graduates with dedicated honoring event

American Indian Education Program Plan



Support the Academic Achievement of American Indian Pupils

Goal: The percentage of American Indian students in grades 1-8 scoring "low risk" according to the FASTbridge aReading assessment will increase from 45% in spring 2026 to 48% in spring 2027.

Strategies:

- The American Indian Education Coordinator will meet with the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator each semester to review FASTbridge aReading scores and determine appropriate interventions.
- The American Indian Education Coordinator will work with the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator to offer tools and resources for supporting at home literacy development.
- Offer access to GRASP Summer Reading and Math Program for American Indian students in grades K-8 to maintain and strengthen skills.

American Indian Education Program Plan



Make Curriculum Relevant to the Needs, Interests, and Cultural Heritage of American Indian Pupils

Goal: The number of opportunities for teachers to learn about and utilize learning trunk items will increase from 2 in 2025-2026 to 9 (each school site and during new teacher training) in the 2026-2027 school year.

Strategies:

- The American Indian Education Coordinator will work collaboratively with student help to inventory and photograph all learning trunk items to develop a better system for teachers to view and access
- The American Indian Education Coordinator will promote the utilization of learning trunk items to staff and site leaders
- Native Student Groups will be held at each school site with consistent schedules, learning outcomes, and Ojibwe language incorporation

American Indian Education Program Plan



Provide Positive Reinforcement of the Self-Image of American Indian Pupils

Goal: The percentage of American Indian students and their relatives participating in at least one AIEP activity will increase from 66.24% (104) during 2025-2026 to 73% (115) during the 2026-2027 school year.

Strategies:

- Provide consistent programming to maintain community connection and visibility
- Coordinate timely updates and event information in multiple ways such as our AIE Program website page, social media, text messages, newsletter, and ParentSquare
- Promote cultural connection through food by distributing local Indigenous cookbooks, providing wild rice and easily distributed food, and offering Indigenous food workshops
- Promote and encourage American Indian student's pride in their identities and cultural heritage through representation in schools including posters, t-shirts, and participation in Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous Peoples Day

American Indian Education Program Plan



Develop Intercultural Awareness Among Pupils, Parents, and Staff

Goal: By the end of the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year, at least 75% of American Indian elementary families will receive an AIEP welcome packet distributed through classroom teachers at all 8 elementary school sites.

Strategies:

- AIPAC members will host information tables at back-to-school nights and open houses to raise awareness and encourage participation
- AIPAC meetings will be offered in a hybrid format allowing both in-person and virtual participation
- American Indian Education Program welcome folders will be developed and available at each school site to help ensure families are aware of program opportunities

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC)



Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.78, requires that all Minnesota districts with 10 or more American Indian students have an American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC).

2026-2027 AIPAC Members:

Nicole McMahon (Chair), Sally Reinhardt, Luann Raymond, Lee Violet, Joan Palmer, Teresa Zaffiro-Day, Jake Day, Anna Greer, Teanna Moye, Janessa Mulder, Cj Mulder, Racquel Pickett, Linda Zurn, Danielle Hernandez



Questions?

