



American Indian Education Aid Plan

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OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Area 1: Support Postsecondary Preparation for American Indian Pupils

OBJECTIVE

To provide comprehensive postsecondary preparation and career exploration opportunities for Indigenous students in Duluth Public Schools, enhancing readiness for life beyond high school and empowering them to pursue higher education and diverse career paths.

Key Target Goals (By May 2027)

- **College & Career Programs:** Attend 3 exploration programs (50% target participation rate of 241 high school students). Includes visits to UMD, Augsburg, UMN, St. Thomas, and Hamline with cultural focus.
- **Early Exposure:** K-5 and 6-8 students provided at least one college/career readiness opportunity.
- **100% Exam Support:** All 11th & 12th grade AI students offered financial assistance and support for ACT/SAT/Accuplacer exams.



Action Steps & Collaboration

- **Recruitment & Outreach:** Coordinate campus visits, scholarship presentations, and FAFSA workshops with AI Home Liaisons and counselors.
- **Targeted Events:** Attend tribal-specific career fairs, trade events, and MTAG (Master of Tribal Administration) presentations.
- **Professional Growth:** Sponsor attendance for students and families at conferences (e.g., MIEA-Minnesota Indian Education- in March 2027).
- **Tracking:** Utilize MCIS (Minnesota Career Information System), ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) data, sign-ins, and post-event surveys.

Funding Request & Budget Details

Covers site/district staff, supplies, student/family transportation, meals, exam fees, and contracted presenters.

- **Fond Du Lac Tribal College Trip:** \$400 (Buses)
- **Additional College/Career Visits:** \$3,000
- **Food (Lunch & Snacks for Visits):** \$2,000
- **MIEA Conference (20 Students, 10 Parents, 4 Staff):** \$25,000
- **ACT/SAT/Accuplacer Fees & Materials:** \$1,500
- **Emergency Student Transportation Assistance:** \$1,000

Things I am honestly learning from this plan and budgets created before me; buses are more expensive than these budgets accounted for if we really want this for our students so we are already asking other resources for assistance here.

Some of the colleges named in this have more expensive routes than this. We have many colleges available and want our student interests as well as what the colleges provide for American Indian students financially to guide which colleges we visit as these can also be sources of funding for us.

Also, these hungry kids go through this food budget very fast, partly due to inflation.

Area 2: Support the Academic Achievement of American Indian Pupils

OBJECTIVE

To enhance the academic achievement of Indigenous Students in Duluth Public Schools.

Key Target Goals

- **Curriculum Feedback Survey:** Implement student survey with QR code by Aug 2026 to measure desired cultural activities/events for curriculum integration.
- **Graduation Rate Improvement:** Increase on-time 4-year graduation rate for American Indian students from 52.1% to a target rate of 60% (disaggregated by site).
- **Family Satisfaction Survey:** Roll out QR code survey by Aug 2026 for students and families to measure academic support satisfaction and gather feedback.

Action Steps & Collaboration

- **Graduation Banquet:** AIE to host an annual banquet by May 2027 inviting graduating AI students and families to celebrate achievements with graduate role models.
- **Cultural Incentives:** Home School Liaisons to provide smudging kits, AI author books/art, and traditional foods (wild rice, maple sugar) for goal accomplishment.
- **Denfeld High Cohort:** Support Indigenous Cohort efforts at Denfeld High School to create a culturally safe space and raise attendance scores by 5% annually.



Funding Request & Budget Details

Covers select site/district staff, supplies/materials, transportation, meals for participating families, and contracted presenter services.

- **Culturally Appropriate Incentives (Books by AI authors, smudging kits, etc. by May 2027): \$17,000**
- **Traditional Foods (Wild rice, maple sugar, etc.): \$2,000**
- **Denfeld High Cohort Support: \$2,000**

Area 3: Make Curriculum Relevant to the Needs, Interests, and Cultural Heritage of American Indian Pupils

OBJECTIVE

To provide curriculum relevant to the needs, interests, and cultural heritage of Indigenous students in schools by funding culturally relevant in-school and out-of-school activities, purchasing cultural items, and supporting meals to foster a welcoming environment and sense of belonging.

Key Target Goals

- **AIPAC Collaboration:** Consult and collaborate with AIPAC to plan, promote, and implement all culturally educational presentations and activities.
- **Course Electives:** By Oct 2026, develop culturally relevant course electives (middle & high school level) available in Fall 2027.
- **Standards Audit & PSEO:** Complete AI standards audit by SY2027; offer targeted PSEO courses to bridge transition to post-secondary education.



Action Steps & Collaboration

- **Seasonal Activities:** Provide 2 seasonal AI-focused activities (Rice Camp, Sugar Bush, Winter storytelling, tribal sovereignty).
- **Elder & Expert Presentations:** Provide 4+ presentations by May 2027 to enact Indigenous Education for All.
- **Electives & After-School:** Test/evaluate programs like Ojibwe language quiz bowl, drum, regalia, or ribbon shirt/skirt making.
- **Denfeld Cohort Support:** Aid in purchasing supplies & materials for 9th-11th grade Indigenous Cohort.

Funding Request & Budget Details

Covers select AI staff within sites/district offices, supplies & materials, transportation, family meals, and contracted presenter services.

- **Seasonal Activity & Elder Speaker Fees:** \$5,000
- **Denfeld High Cohort Support:** (See Area 2 for funding request)

Area 4: Provide Positive Reinforcement of the Self-Image of American Indian Pupils

OBJECTIVE

Our program aims to strengthen Indigenous students' self-image by celebrating their achievements and fostering a supportive community around their successes. We will emphasize positive reinforcement through community involvement, hosting events, and creating programs and policies for younger students to connect with older students as role models.

Key Target Goals

- **Academic Support System:** By May 2027, home school liaisons will implement Infinite Campus contact logs for attendance, behavior, and academic needs, reporting to AIPAC per FERPA.
- **Cultural Events & Pow Wows:** By May 2027, implement at least 3 cultural activities/events (seasonal feasts, round dances, storytelling, literacy events, tribal flags, artwork, or pow wows).
- **District Cultural Symbols:** Add at least 2 culturally significant symbols (flags, signage, or artwork) across the district (including sites like East High or Ordean Middle).

Action Steps & Collaboration

- **Cultural Expressions:** Provide achievement & expression events (Orange Shirt Day, Rock Your Mocs) planned by coordinator, principals, and liaisons.
- **Student Mentorship:** Support Indigenous student orgs as role models for younger students (classroom visits, research presentations, pow wow dance leaders).
- **Symbol Celebrations:** Host 2+ events celebrating flags/murals in schools (East, Ordean, or Lincoln Park).
- **Community Events:** Host 2+ cultural presentations (round dances, feasts) by April 2027 and a District Pow Wow by May 2027.



Funding Request & Budget Details

Covers select AI staff, supplies, transportation, family meals, contracted speakers/artists, and major cultural celebrations.

- **Graduation Banquets & Gifts (5th, 8th, 12th grade):** \$40,000
- **District Pow Wow & Community Gatherings:** \$33,000 (Pow Wow \$10K, Feast/Round Dance \$15K, End of Year \$8K)
- **Symbols, Artwork & Murals:** \$19,069 (Flags/Signage \$7K, Mural \$8.07K, Honor Guard \$3K, Ojibwemowin \$2K)
- **Cultural Workshops & Supplies:** \$5,750 (Sewing Classes \$4K, Cultural Expressions/Orange Shirt Day \$2K)



Questions?

- Any questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Feedback?