

Dream Catcher Schools



The Dream Catcher project received the name to represent the work of a real dream catcher. Dream Catchers are recognized, whether original or adopted, by both the Dakota and Ojibwe communities in our state. A dream catcher is meant to filter messages, catching in the web the messages meant to scare us and throw us off course and allowing the guiding messages in our dreams to come through the web. Schools trained in this project become like dream catchers to our youth being able to filter through messages and see what is meant to guide youth to a successful future.

For more information contact:

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Indian Education Program or Cultural Staff**

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Dream Catcher Project



<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/div/index.htm>

Facebook: Dream Catchers



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456145551253481>

Reducing Bias in Education



<https://www.uwrf.edu/CSP/ReducingBias.cfm>

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The Dream Catcher Project is a Minnesota Department of Education program that partners American Indian Educators or Cultural Liaisons with special educators. Indian Education or cultural liaisons are trained and supported to conduct observations and to provide feedback on differences, disabilities or disadvantages that may influence students or school perspectives.

Why Do We Need Cultural Liaisons on the Special Education Teams?

School districts are required under federal and state law to:

- Provide specific services to students and families.
- Ensure that parents are informed of their legal rights and involved in decision making.
- Gather information from families as part of evaluation.
- Ensure that special educator's evaluations are not discriminatory.
- Rule out cultural, socio-economic and linguistic differences as the primary cause of student's academic behavior problems in schools.

Cultural Liaisons

Subp. 10. Cultural liaison. "Cultural liaison" means a person who is of the same racial, cultural, socioeconomic, or linguistic background as the pupil, and who:

- Provides information to the IEP team about the pupil's race, cultural, socioeconomic, and linguistic background;
- assists the IEP team in understanding how racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and linguistic factors impact educational progress; and
- facilitates the pupil's parent's understanding and involvement in the special education process.

If a person who is of the same racial, cultural, socioeconomic, or linguistic background as the pupil is not available, then a person who has knowledge of the pupil's racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and linguistic background may act as a cultural liaison.

Minnesota Rules 3525.0210

Indian Education



PURPOSE - It is the purpose of this part to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, so that such students can meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards as all other students are expected to meet.

- meeting the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives;
- the education of Indian children and adults;
- the training of Indian persons as educators and counselors, and in other professions serving Indian people; and
- research, evaluation, data collection, and technical assistance.



Office of Indian Education:

<https://education.mn.gov/mde/dse/indian/>