



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning
DATE: October 15th, 2026
RE: Indigenous Peoples' Day

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only
☐ Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated.
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information:
This memo outlines the activities that students engaged with in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, which took place on October 12th, 2026.
Background/Historical Context:
Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday in the United States that celebrates and honors Indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October and is an official city and state holiday in various localities.
Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:
Listed below are instructional activities District 33 students engaged in by grade level. Preschool: All Preschool classrooms were provided a choice of read-aloud books for Library time that included a story about Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. The selection also included other books about being kind. Being kind is one of the three core Pyramid expectations to teach foundational social and cultural competence. Kindergarten - 5th grade: Kindergarten through 5th-grade teachers across the district were provided a choice board of activities to utilize with students in their classrooms. The purpose of the choice board is to offer autonomy for teachers in each classroom while still providing consistency in student experience across the district. The choice board included a variety of options, such as videos serving as an introduction to Indigenous Peoples of the U.S., research articles, and additional educational activities that not only taught students about the history of Indigenous Peoples across the U.S. but also about the importance of community building and cultural celebrations; all supporting the goal of improved social and cultural competence. The resources included are a combination of Discovery Education and NewsELA. Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures were also used in conjunction with these activities to

deepen understanding and improve student oracy skills, which is in alignment with district ACCESS and literacy goals.
6th-8th Grade- At the middle school, students in 6th-grade social studies study early human civilizations. During these lessons, students examine the societies that existed before today's society, analyze and explore their cultures, and see how early human civilizations have impacted the world today. Leman will also do a school-wide announcement commemorating Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
Recommendations:
N/A