



# American Indian Education Program Update

Presented to the School Board on November 24, 2025  
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# 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
<b>2022-2023</b>	84	\$42,912
<b>2023-2024</b>	91	\$75,500
<b>2024-2025</b>	173	\$116,500
<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>\$110,500</b>

# Our Journey



## Evolution of the American Indian Cultural Liaison Position

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

# Spring 2025 Accomplishments

- Native Student Group established at Garlough
- Winter storytelling
- Augsburg Native Youth Day
- Red Lake Nation College Tour
- Literacy and math support programming
- South of the River Powwow
- End of the Year Celebration & Senior Honoring





# Fall 2025 Accomplishments

- Summer backpack distribution
- Supporting Native Students PD for new teachers
- Native Student Groups established at Moreland, Mendota, & Somerset
- University of Minnesota American Indian Visit Day
- Native American Heritage Month Celebration
- Overall increase in program participation



# 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 15 students to 20 students in the 2025-2026 school year.

### Strategies:

- All American Indian 12th graders will be invited to participate in an American Indian student FAFSA 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 scoring "low risk" according to the FASTbridge aReading assessment will increase from 47% in winter 2025 to 50% in winter 2026.

### 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 elementary American Indian students to meet in affinity spaces will increase from zero to one monthly meeting at each of the five elementary schools during the 2025-2026 school year.

### Strategies:

- Native American Student Groups will be established at each elementary school, providing consistent and culturally affirming spaces for American Indian students
- All American Indian students across ISD 197's eight school sites will be invited to participate in these groups, which aim to build cultural knowledge, foster peer connections, and explore Ojibwe and Dakota cultures, with a focus on Ojibwe culture and language

# American Indian Education Program Plan



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

**Goal:** The percentage of American Indian families participating in at least one AIEP activity will increase from 43% (44 families) to 49% (50 families) during the 2025-2026 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 fry bread mixes, and offering Trickster Tacos food truck vouchers to American Indian families

# American Indian Education Program Plan



## Develop Intercultural Awareness Among Pupils, Parents, and Staff

**Goal:** Increase average attendance at AIPAC meetings from 3 members during the 2024-2025 school year to at least 5 members per meeting during the 2025-2026 school year.

### 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
- The AIPAC will review and revise the bylaws.

# 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).

## **2025-2026 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



# Questions?

