



# Washington Elementary

## HOME OF THE WILDCATS

## Tribal Absenteeism Pilot Project Update

### **Background**

After the release of the *Condition of Education for Oregon's Tribal Students* in January 2013, a study from the Chalkboard Project, the Government to Government Education Cluster (comprised of representatives from each of Oregon's nine (9) federally recognized tribes), created a Policy Option Package (POP) to solicit state funding to reduce chronic absenteeism of Native American students. The study revealed nearly one-third (33%) of Native American students in all grades were chronically absent (missing 10% or more of school days). While All Other students were at less than one-fifth (19%) chronically absent.

The Oregon legislature set aside \$1.5 million to reduce chronic absenteeism of native students. This project is referred to as the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project (TAPP). As a lead in the solicitation of this funding source, the Government to Government Education Cluster requested participation in the selection of schools / districts to receive funds. Each of Oregon's nine (9) federally recognized tribes, has identified a school or district to participate in TAPP. Specifically, participating school / district will receive an estimated \$150,000 to hire a family advocate position with deep local connections to create a school-wide initiative to reduce chronic absenteeism.

The intent of the collaboration is to strengthen the links between the tribes and the schools that serve enrolled tribal members. However, because this is a school-wide initiative it will positively impact the attendance of every student attending those schools.

### **Pendleton School District / CTUIR Partnership**

The PSD and CTUIR identified Washington Elementary School as the TAPP site since the school is comprised of the highest volume of AI/AN students. Washington Elementary has a current enrollment of 161 AI/AN students. The Family Advocate retrieved attendance data from the 2015/16 academic year and reviewed attendance patterns. Based upon the initial review, an "Attendance Priority" list of students was generated. These students have been tracked since the onset of the year in order to provide necessary interventions when/if attendance concerns are revealed. The Family Advocate coordinated with both Tribal and City Truancy Officers in order to assist in contacting parents and have been successful in increasing attendance. The Family Advocate has daily communication with the CTUIR Indian Education Coordinators in order to support AI/AN students at Washington Elementary.

### **Parental Outreach**

The TAPP Family Advocate and Washington Principal have participated in interviews with the East Oregonian, The Confederated Umatilla Journal and KCUW "Camp Crier" radio show. A "TAPP Family Night" was held on the evening of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Another monthly Family Night is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Washington Elementary. Invitations will be sent to each AI/AN student with special focus placed upon students with high rates of absenteeism.



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2015/16 Washington Elementary Overall Attendance	2016/17 Washington Elementary Current Attendance
Total AI/AN Students: 92%	All Students: 94%
Grade 1: 88%	Grade 1: 91%
Grade 2: 92%	Grade 2: 92%
Grade 3: 92%	Grade 3: 95%
Grade 4: 94%	Grade 4: 95%
Grade 5: 93%	Grade 5: 95%