

Native Education: Title VI of the Every Student Succeeds Act

The list below outlines some, but not all, of the key provisions that support the education of AI/AN students:

1. Tribal Consultation

For the first time ever, states and LEAs are required to engage in meaningful consultation with tribes or tribal organizations in the development of state plans for Title I grants. Further, LEAs must consult with tribes *before* making any decision that affects opportunities for AI/AN students in programs, services or activities funded by ESSA.

2. State Tribal Education Program

The law permanently authorizes the State Tribal Education Program (STEP). Also, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is now recognized as an educational entity and is allowed to **apply for STEP grants** as a partner--just as SEAs currently do--to promote tribal self-determination. The permanent authorization of this program not only continues efforts to promote tribal self-determination but also coordination and collaboration between SEAs, LEAs, and TEAs in administering and implementing various federal programs.

3. Cooperative Agreements

ESSA allows tribes to enter into cooperative agreements with states and LEAs to run and operate Title VI programs on tribal lands

4. Technical Assistance

The Secretary of Education is directed to provide technical assistance to LEAs, including technical assistance to develop applications, improve implementation, and integrate Title VI activities with other educational activities.

5. Outreach

The Secretary of Education is tasked with reaching out to LEAs and BIE schools that are eligible for Title VII grants in order to encourage and assist eligible entities to submit applications.

6. Native Language Immersion Programs

Funds awarded under a new Title VI grant may be used to fund Native language immersion programs in public schools. The intent is to help Native peoples use, practice, maintain and revitalize their languages and cultures and to improve educational opportunities and student outcomes in AI/AN communities.

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