

Nevada Department of Education Indian Education Updates
Prepared for the Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting, November 2017

Here is an overview of meeting and events that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Education Programs Professional (EPP) for Indian Education administrators.

ESSA Tribal Consultation: The reauthorization of the ESEA, in December 2015, named the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) fundamentally changes public education by shifting the power and autonomy from the federal to state governments. Under ESSA, states and local districts have greater flexibility in educating their students. The ESSA law places emphasis on state and local innovation and highlights a new era, providing a great deal of flexibility to our states and local districts. (<http://www.niea.org>).

Below are updates to the ESSA Consultation process in Nevada:

- Spring 2017: Clark County School District held their ESSA Tribal Consultation in the spring with the Moapa Band of Paiute and the Las Vegas Band of Paiute.
- Spring 2017: Washoe County School District (WCSD) held their ESSA Tribal Consultation in the spring with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Education Department, and Nevada Urban Indian Center, along with representatives from Natchez Elementary School. The WCSD will continue to provide consultation and include the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in the 2017-18 academic school year.
- June 26-27: I met with Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and other Indian Education Directors to discuss the ESSA Tribal Consultation process this far in the process.
- September 27-28: NDE Education Programs Professionals provided technical assist to the Elko County School District, Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the following Te-Moak Bands: Elko Band Council and South Fork, to improve on building relationships. Wells Band Council was included, but was not at the meeting.
 - The meeting was successful in the NDE providing suggestions on how to go forward.
 - From these meetings, the NDE will provide a guidance/framework with a step-by-step process for the districts and the tribes to create more sustainability to improve the academic achievement for AI students in all school districts affected.
- October 12: Churchill and Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe held their first consultation meeting. The NDE Education Programs Professional (EPP) did not attend this meeting. Another meeting is being scheduled for November. The NDE hopes to provide the guidance for the district and tribe to move forward positively.

Indian Education Plan: The purpose of this work is to encourage leadership capacity, and to include tribal cultural and engagement strategies to prepare AI students academically and socially. The overall goal is to support districts and schools in developing sustainable systems to promote high expectations for AI/AN students, and to provide an effective, regular, two-way communication system with tribal communities

and schools to constantly be engaged in the education of these students in ways such as determine funding, policy, and instruction.

Through Assembly Bill (AB) 266, the Education Programs Professional (EPP) for Indian Education, will collaborate with stakeholders, adapt resources, as well as following state statutes and grant funding to fulfill the goals within the Indian Education Plan. The work will be updated every 90-days from October 2017 – October 2018.

Below is a draft of the Vision, Mission, Goals, and objectives. If you wish to provide any suggestions or comments I will still take your comments/suggestions by November 22, 2017 (added 11.15.17).

Vision: All American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in Nevada are culturally aware and academically prepared for the 21st Century, and are civic minded, socially, and physically prepared to promote excellence.

Mission: Improve the academic achievement of all AI/AN students in Nevada and expose all students to resources that are culturally relevant in learning the rich history and contemporary lifestyles of the tribes indigenous to Nevada.

Goal 1: Support districts and schools in developing sustainable systems to promote high expectations for AI/AN students.

Objective 1: *Improve school district and school leaders understanding of the history of cultural trauma which requires special care and consideration to meet the educational needs of AI students.*

Objective 2: Expand the culturally relevant curriculum for schools that includes the Nevada Social Studies Standards, the Great Basin Native American Language state statute, and cultural aspects.

Objective 3: Develop a guide to assist high school counselors in their work with AI students to prepare them academically and socially for postsecondary education and careers.

Goal 2: Provide an effective regular two-way system with tribal communities and schools to determine funding, policy and instruction.

Objective 1: Strengthen parents, families, and communities about learning strategies, knowledge about student progress, and parent roles in their student's academic success.

Objective 2: *Expand the cultural, historical, and professional resources for districts to use.*

Objective 3: Develop a guide to increase parents' capacity in how to best prepare and guide their student(s) in a postsecondary education or career experience.

Objective 4: Strengthen relationships between the tribes and the school/district administrators in Nevada.

Native Youth Community Program (NYCP) Grant: The NYCP funding opportunity supports preschool through college-level projects that help American Indian and Alaska Native youth prepare for college and careers.

- In 2016, the NDE applied for the NYCP Grant, but did not receive the grant. However, because the NDE had a high score, we were notified in September 2017 that we were being awarded for four-years.
- The NDE is the recipient of the NYCP grant, with sub grantees Yerington Paiute and Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and working with their respected school districts to provide a College and Career Coach who will be in the schools, and Community Based Instructor who will work with the community. These positions will be opening as soon as possible in both areas. The NDE is the only state agency that has this grant. We are very excited for the outcomes.

Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) for Social Studies (September 2017)
(added 11.15.17)

The State Board of Education approved the NVAC for Social Studies in September. Districts are now able to begin aligning curriculum, resources, and training for teachers, etc., to the new standards during the 2017-18 academic year, with full implementation of the new standards in the 2018-19 school year. Below is the link to the new document:

http://www.doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/nde.doe.nv.gov/content/Standards_Instructional_Support/Nevada_Academic_Standards/Social_Studies/2017NVACSforSocialStudiesADA.pdf

What does this mean for Indian Education? In the draft 2017-18 Indian Education Plan, Objective 2, states, “Expand the Culturally relevant curriculum for schools that include the Nevada Social Studies Standards, the Great Basin Native American Language state statute, and cultural aspects.” We presume to do fulfill this objective in Action Step 2.2., which states we will do a crosswalk of the Social Studies Standards with the current Curriculum Guide, *History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the [tribes of Nevada]* and began to revise and amend the Curriculum Guide. Thereafter, work on lesson plans that were prepared by educators during past Lesson Plan Writing Retreats. Our start dates for the crosswalk will begin in January 2017.

American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit

- Registration has opened. The Summit dates are March 22-23, 2018, at the University of Nevada, Reno.
- Youth Registration – was supposed to open in the middle of October, but will be open by November 17 instead. Through the grant we can pay for some student registration fees and we need to set that up in the registration page so that students can apply for the scholarship.

Native American Heritage Month at the NDE

- This is our third year providing a Native American Heritage month at the NDE. Below is our flyer. In addition, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony will provide a workshop on three of the tribal languages, Northern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone.



**CELEBRATING
NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

At the Nevada Department of Education

November is Native American Indian Heritage Month. Established in 1994, Native American Indian Heritage Month is the celebration of the histories, traditions, and the rich contributions of Native American Indian people. The tribes indigenous to Nevada are the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe, and Western Shoshone.

November 15, all day!
Rock Your Mocks! Or wear a teal ribbon. Ribbons will be outside of Suite 110.

November 17, 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.
Come see something different!
Yupik Alaska Dance Group & Indian Taco Sale, in the NDE Board Room

November 13 – November 30
Artwork by the Owyhee Combined School Students, featured by Suite 110

November 30, 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.
History of Stewart Indian Boarding School, Presented by Sherry Rupert, Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission, in the Silver Ore

The NDE will host workshops, presentations, and events throughout the month to showcase the unique and vast aspects of Native American culture. All events will be held at the NDE. Feel free to bring your lunch.

A little about the Presentations

Yupik Dancers
The Mt. Edsecumbe High School Yupik Dance Group is comprised of students from villages from Western Alaska. The eight students traveling to the Reno area are among the finest youth. They have taught each other traditional Yupik songs and dances they learned from their elders, families and their teachers. Each student has pledged to be drug, tobacco and alcohol free. They also commit to serving the community of Sitka by being in parades, performing at celebrations and many events held in Sitka, AK.

Stewart Indian Boarding School
The Stewart Indian School served as the only off-reservation Indian boarding school in Nevada from 1890 through 1980, and its stone buildings are an icon of education and life for many American Indians in the West.
(stewartindianschool.com)