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# NEVADA AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN



Prepared by the Nevada Indian Commission  
Indian Education Advisory Committee

Approved by the Nevada Indian Commission on March 18, 2009

Adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education on March 20, 2009

March 2009

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# **Nevada American Indian and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan 2009-2014**

## **Background**

The Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) is a state agency that was established in 1965 to study matters affecting the social and economic welfare and well-being of American Indians residing in the state of Nevada. The NIC was established to be a mediator for tribal-state relations and the entity through which tribal concerns and issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Natives could be directly addressed with the Governor. The NIC serves as a liaison between the state and federally recognized tribes comprised of 27 separate tribes, bands and community councils. Commission activities are aimed at developing and improving cooperation and communications between the tribes, state, local governments, and related public agencies with the purpose of improving education, employment, health, well-being and socio-economic status of Nevada's American Indian citizens and enhancing tribal sovereignty, economic opportunities and community development.

The NIC authorized the formation of an advisory committee on Indian Education (see committee listing on page 14) at a meeting held on June 20, 2002. The Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) began meeting under current administration in October 2005. Aware that American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students enrolled in Nevada's public school system have a high drop out rate, high absenteeism rate and low achievement test scores and graduation rate, the IEAC brought this information to the attention of the State Board of Education at their December 3, 2005 meeting. Subsequently, the IEAC was officially appointed by the State Board of Education (SBOE) as the Task Force on Indian Education to accomplish a strategic plan for Indian Education in Nevada. The motion to create the Task Force was passed unanimously on January 21, 2006 by the State Board of Education.

## **Introduction**

Within this document, the Indian Education Advisory Committee has identified 12 goals to ensure no American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) child is left behind in the benefits of education afforded to all other students in the state. The goals are provided to ensure that the unique language, cultural and historical differences of AI/ANs are included in educating all youth in the state.

The IEAC promotes equal educational opportunities for AI/AN students and is focused on furthering government-to-government relationship with Tribes, and the empowerment of parents and Indian communities and organizations to develop partnerships with local school districts, the Nevada Department of Education and the Nevada State Board of Education.

The IEAC seeks to encourage Indian parents, school districts, local school boards, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, State Board of Education and Tribes to work together to explore and find ways to address the high drop out rate, high absenteeism rate, low graduation rate and low achievement test scores of Indian students. The Advisory Committee believes that all students can succeed and must be challenged to reach their full potential by being provided with opportunities to learn and be actively included in the local school system.

It was also important that the IEAC include input from Nevada's Tribal leadership. The draft plan was presented to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada on July 18, 2008. The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada is a body comprised of 27 elected representatives from each of Nevada's tribes. The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada passed a resolution (see Attachment A) supporting the efforts of the IEAC and the Nevada American Indian and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan. Further, that the tribes support the Plan approval and adoption by the State Board of Education.

This document will be reviewed periodically and a report on the progress of the Plan will be presented to the Nevada Indian Commission Executive Board, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Executive Board and the State Board of Education.

## Goals and Objectives

### Goal 1

*Adopt policies that encourage strong partnerships with American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) parents, tribal and community leaders and school districts. As partners, these stakeholders shall have an opportunity to provide input to school districts regarding programs for AI/AN students.*

#### Objectives:

- 1.1 Recommend that partnerships be formed between community groups and local boards of education and provide ongoing technical assistance and training on how to achieve the partnerships.
- 1.2 Provide ongoing technical assistance and training to improve and expand the parental involvement efforts of local districts.
- 1.3 Support, encourage and promote the development and implementation of cooperative agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) among tribes, schools, and agencies responsible for the education of Nevada AI/AN students.
  - a. Successful MOUs will be shared with other districts as models worthy of consideration.
  - b. The roles and responsibilities of each entity should be clearly defined within MOUs.
- 1.4 Provide technical assistance to districts concerning the benefits of joint planning strategies among school districts, tribes and other entities responsible for AI/AN students.
- 1.5 Promote partnerships by supporting workshops and conferences for AI/AN communities.

### Goal 2

*Promote and provide strategies for effective education to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students at all levels.*

#### Objectives:

- 2.1 Collaborate with all stakeholders to:
  - a. Provide technical assistance to all Nevada school districts on effective strategies for education of AI/AN students.
  - b. Implement and monitor the AI/AN Education Plan.
  - c. Be responsible for coordination of the various components of the Plan.

- d. Serve as a technical assistance liaison and provide resource information that may include Title VII or other funding opportunities to school districts and AI/AN communities in the state.

NOTE: The long-term goal of the AI/AN community is to have an Office of Indian Education; however, for now, support the Indian Education Consultant position and continue identifying resources to support the long-term goal.

- 2.2 Annually visit the districts with enrollments of AI/AN students to provide technical assistance and address specific issues pertaining to that district.
- 2.3 Support new and existing AI/AN educational efforts.
- 2.4 Provide in-service opportunities for all NDE staff involved in meeting the needs of AI/AN students so that all NDE offices can promote positive outcomes for AI/AN students.
- 2.5 Work in partnership with Indian Education stakeholders at the tribal, local, state and national level to identify and showcase programs that are effective and exemplary in meeting the needs of AI/AN students.

### **Goal 3**

*Develop educational programs to address the educational needs of all AI/AN students in Nevada.*

Objectives:

- 3.1 Review the curriculum for accurate representation of AI/AN populations and the use of effective practices in Indian Education.
- 3.2 Provide opportunities for observation of local educational efforts that meet comprehensive needs of AI/AN students.
- 3.3 Provide information and assistance related to identified needs of AI/AN students.
- 3.4 Support state-based legislation that will ensure comprehensive educational services for Nevada's AI/AN students.
- 3.5 Provide an annual report of existing data from an expanded Nevada Report Card format that includes race/ethnic-specific information.
- 3.6 Coordinate an annual conference that will allow AI/AN people an opportunity to review and discuss the progress of AI/AN education and suggest modifications to the AI/AN Strategic Plan.

3.7 Review and discuss progress on the Strategic Plan and make recommendations for any modifications.

## **Goal 4**

*Consider the existing system of data collection used to obtain and disseminate uniform and comprehensive data on AI/AN students in public schools.*

Objectives:

- 4.1 Collect and disseminate pertinent education-related information on AI/AN students through standard reports.
- 4.2 Identify a contact within the school districts to collect and share data on AI/AN students.
- 4.3 Compile educational data on the status of the Nevada AI/AN students.
- 4.4 Include data specific to AI/AN student outcomes, regardless of sample size, in a section of the Nevada Report Card.
- 4.5 Consider the N (sample size) be reduced to 10 from 25. This data will be used to provide programming and resources by stakeholders to increase the achievement of AI/AN students.

## **Goal 5**

*Provide professional development opportunities to all teachers, counselors, administrators, and other ancillary personnel in the public school system on culturally relevant teaching strategies and the unique needs of AI/AN students to improve outcomes for these students.*

Objectives:

- 5.1 Encourage development and implementation of policies for cultural competence where none currently exist.
- 5.2 Encourage and support local school boards in their efforts to develop policies and procedures that will provide in-service for all district and school personnel about AI/AN students and cultures.
- 5.3 Explore structures through which in-service can be made available.
- 5.4 Support the strengthening of current teacher education standards to ensure that professional educators are knowledgeable about AI/AN students, and Nevada's tribes, geography and culture.

- 5.5 Identify and disseminate curriculum and instruction models focusing on intercultural teaching competencies across the curriculum. These curriculum and instructional models shall be recommended to districts for use in staff in-service training programs.
- 5.6 Provide in-service recommendations and technical assistance to Nevada school districts and AI/AN communities.
- 5.7 Encourage the input of local AI/AN educators within the schools.
- 5.8 Maintain an Indian Education web site accessible to all school districts to increase awareness and to access appropriate resources.
- 5.9 Encourage school districts to increase the number of teachers trained in cultural competencies.

## **Goal 6**

*Encourage implementation of culturally specific, historically accurate, and developmentally appropriate AI/AN curriculum and instructional materials in every school district in Nevada to be infused throughout the curriculum.*

### **Objectives:**

- 6.1 Promote and support Great Basin Native languages as stated in NAC 389.6549.
- 6.2 Work with school district staff to review and research curriculum and text books (i.e. “Celebrating Nevada Indians,” literature, social studies and government text books).
- 6.3 Establish a committee to review current curriculum and text books for historical accuracy and representation of American Indians and provide recommendations.
  - a. Work with tribal leaders and tribal representatives in research of historical accuracy and representation.
  - b. Invite representatives of the AI/AN communities to serve on future curriculum development committees.
  - c. Provide input to the Council to Establish Academic Standards to Public Schools regarding American Indians in history, literature and government standards.
  - d. Recommend in-service training for curriculum specialists and school improvement staff on findings of research on AI/AN curriculum and text books.
  - e. Bring recommendations for improvement and adoption.
  - f. Review approved curriculum materials.



- 6.4 Provide current curriculum framework and State Board adopted materials to schools upon proper approval.
- 6.5 Collect appropriate curriculum materials and disseminate them, within budget limitations, to school districts.
- 6.6 Develop and maintain a resource directory of AI/AN educational materials and annually disseminate the directory to school districts.
  - a. A review committee shall develop criteria for inclusion of materials in the resource directory and shall periodically review the contents.
  - b. School districts and Tribal Education programs shall be invited to submit copies of locally developed materials.
  - c. Seek resources to update and distribute the directory of available American Indian materials.

## **Goal 7**

*Identify, develop, and implement non-biased and culturally appropriate assessment instruments to determine achievement levels for AI/AN students.*

Objectives:

- 7.1 Review and ensure that state assessments are bias-free and culturally appropriate and suggest revisions where needed.
- 7.2 Invite representatives of the IEAC and other AI/AN organizations to join as cultural bias reviewers for NDE statewide tests as they are being developed.
- 7.3 Identify culturally appropriate performance-based assessment activities for AI/AN students.
- 7.4 Receive in-service training on evaluating assessment instruments for bias.
- 7.5 When requested, share guidelines and procedures for evaluating assessment instruments for bias with members of the IEAC.

## **Goal 8**

*Support full participation of all AI/AN children in preschool Early Childhood Education Programs as a priority.*

Objectives:

- 8.1 Identify comprehensive high-quality early childhood education programs to meet the needs of AI/AN students.

- 8.2 Identify AI/AN communities eligible for assistance in applying for federal or state funds for pre-school programs and provide assistance in making applications.
- 8.3 Ensure appropriate representation from AI/AN communities on Early Childhood Education committees.
- 8.4 Support early childhood program development opportunities available to all school districts in the state.
- 8.5 Develop a communication plan and a contact person in each AI/AN community to increase opportunities for AI/AN families to be aware of early childhood education services.
- 8.6 Recommend teachers and administrators assigned to Early Childhood Programs complete in-service training that includes cultural competencies.
- 8.7 Provide technical assistance to increase collaboration on the transition from Early Childhood Education programs to the elementary school (i.e. preparing students for state tests).
- 8.8 Early Childhood Education should be inclusive of culturally appropriate curriculum.

## **Goal 9**

*Build partnerships with AI/AN parents and implement programs that increase parental involvement.*

Objectives:

- 9.1 Provide technical assistance to school districts and Tribal Education Programs to support the creation of parent committees or support existing parent committees.
- 9.2 Build parent education programs for AI/AN parents. Examples:
  - a. Communication training for Parent teacher conferences and Individual Education Plans (IEP's).
  - b. No Child Left Behind informational workshops and brochures.
  - c. Relationship building events between parents and teachers.
  - d. Family nights with or without school staff participation.
  - e. Transition to post-secondary education workshops.
- 9.3 Develop a resource listing of model programs for parent involvement that can be shared through training and dissemination to school districts and tribes.

9.4 Make comprehensive, culturally sensitive and appropriate parent training and parental involvement a priority.

9.5 Monitor programs to ensure that parents are included in the education planning for their children.

## **Goal 10**

*Develop programs or implement research-based and/or effective strategies for reducing problem behavior among AI/AN youth.*

Objectives:

- 10.1 Support and build partnerships with local prevention coalitions that reduce problem behavior among AI/AN youth.
- 10.2 Collaborate with the Statewide Native American Coalition to reduce problem behavior among AI/AN youth.
- 10.3 Research effective strategies, research-based and promising practices for prevention and intervention programs for reducing problem behavior and disseminate to school districts.
- 10.4 Support the implementation of prevention and intervention programs at the district level.

## **Goal 11**

*Support the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) policies and practices that ensure AI/AN students are provided equal access and opportunities for higher education in the state for the development of future AI/AN professionals and create programs that increase the number of AI/AN students and faculty in post-secondary institutions.*

Objectives:

- 11.1 Share information with Nevada's high schools, colleges and universities about resources that are available.
  - a. Financial aid
  - b. Internships
  - c. Waivers
  - d. Other opportunities
- 11.2 Provide technical assistance for developing sustainable recruitment and retention programs for AI/AN students at Nevada's post-secondary institutions.

- 11.3 Promote the importance of increasing AI/AN faculty both at the academic and administrative levels within the NSHE.
- 11.4 Collaborate with the NSHE to obtain data that will support outreach, recruitment and retention of AI/AN students and faculty.
- 11.5 Provide outreach services and programs to Nevada K-12 schools that have AI/AN students attending.
- 11.6 Develop committees and work with existing committees to share information and support increasing recruitment and retention rates among AI/AN students.
- 11.7 Provide scholarship and other information to prospective and current AI/AN students attending Nevada post-secondary institutions.
- 11.8 Collaborate with and provide technical support to the NSHE and its faculty to develop demonstrable programs that lead to a successful post-secondary recruitment and retention for AI/AN students.
- 11.9 Utilize existing programs (Upward Bound, TRIO, and McNair Scholars program, etc.) to ensure AI/AN students succeed at both the K-12 and post-secondary institutions.
- 11.10 Promote and support development of Native American Studies courses and inclusion of AI/AN content across the curriculum to develop future AI/AN professionals.

## **Goal 12**

*Support the Nevada System of Higher Education in addressing the need for additional cultural competency training for Nevada's licensed and pre-service teachers and increase the number of AI/AN teachers.*

Objectives:

- 12.1 Support policies and practices of the NSHE and the NDE Office of Teacher Licensure in the development and delivery of training in cultural competencies working with AI/AN students.
  - a. Provide technical assistance to Education Departments within the NSHE to promote the validity of providing a Cultural Competency model for licensed and pre-service teachers.
  - b. Collaborate with the NSHE to develop, at minimum, one 3-credit AI/AN cultural competency course for those earning a Bachelor of Education.

12.2 Provide technical assistance in promoting more student teaching contracts on Tribal reservations or at schools where there are AI/AN students.

12.3 Collaborate with the NSHE to explore strategies aimed at increasing the number of AI/AN teachers licensed in Nevada.

## **Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

**Pam Abercrombie**, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe  
**Fredina Drye-Romero**, Indian Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education

**Kari Emm**, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno  
**Lynn Manning**, Indian Education Coordinator, Washoe County School District  
**Lori Pasqua**, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California  
**Sherry L. Rupert**, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission  
**Reginald Stewart**, Director, Center for Student Cultural Diversity, University Nevada, Reno

## **Nevada Indian Commission**

### **Commissioners**

Theodore Quasula, Chairman  
Richard Arnold, Vice-Chairman  
Sharon Frederick  
Teresa Sprouse  
William Oliver

### **Staff**

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
Chris Gibbons, Administrative Assistant III

## **Advisory Committee on Education for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

Chair: Sharon Frederick, Former State Board of Education Member and Nevada Indian Commission  
Vice-Chair: Pam Abercrombie, Yerington Paiute Tribe  
Harriet Allen, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe  
Francis Benally, Nevada Urban Indians  
Eric Beye, Washoe County School District  
Dawn Bruce, Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Leslie Brown, Churchill County School District  
Shawn Carsrud, Elko County School District  
Sue Chambers, Churchill County School District  
Reginald Chhen Stewart, Center for Student Cultural Diversity, UNR  
Christi Del Porto, Lyon County School District  
Kari Emm, Center for Student Cultural Diversity, UNR  
Kyle Ethelbah, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Barbara Garcia, Washoe Tribe  
Wendy Garcia, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada  
Katherine Greysen, Sierra Nevada College  
Richard Kale, Western Nevada College  
Christopher A. Kypuros, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Lynn Manning, Washoe County School District  
Chuck Masoka, College of Southern Nevada

Norma Naranjo, Clark County School District  
Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California  
Faye Ridesatthedoor, Goshute Business Council  
Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education  
Carlos Romo, Truckee Meadows Community College  
Anthony Sampson, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Vicki Simmons, Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Sherry Smokey, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California  
Monica Thomas, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony  
San San Tin, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony  
Mary Williams, Walker River Paiute Tribe

## **Glossary of Terms**

<b>AI/AN</b>	American Indian/Alaska Native
<b>IEAC</b>	Indian Education Advisory Committee
<b>ITCN</b>	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
<b>NDE</b>	Nevada Department of Education
<b>NIC</b>	Nevada Indian Commission
<b>NSBE</b>	Nevada State Board of Education
<b>NSHE</b>	Nevada System of Higher Education



# Attachment A



## INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

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RESOLUTION NO. 08-ITCN-06

### RESOLUTION OF INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN  
BAND COUNCIL  
CARSON COLONY  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
DRESSLERVILLE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
DUCK VALLEY  
SHOSHONE-PAIUTE  
BUSINESS COUNCIL  
DUCKWATER  
SHOSHONE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
ELKO BAND  
COUNCIL  
ELY SHOSHONE  
COUNCIL  
FALLON BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
FT. McDERMITT  
PAIUTE-SHOSHONE  
TRIBES  
GOSHUTE BAND  
COUNCIL  
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
LOVELOCK TRIBAL  
COUNCIL  
MOAPA BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
PYRAMID LAKE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RENO/SPARKS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
SOUTH FORK  
BAND COUNCIL  
STEWART  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
SUMMIT LAKE  
PAIUTE COUNCIL  
TE-MOAK TRIBAL  
COUNCIL  
TIMBISHA SHOSHONE  
TRIBE  
WALKER RIVER  
PAIUTE TRIBAL  
COUNCIL  
WASHOE TRIBAL  
COUNCIL  
WELLS BAND  
COUNCIL  
WINNEMUCCA  
COLONY COUNCIL  
WOODFORDS  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
YERINGTON PAIUTE  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
YOMBA TRIBAL  
COUNCIL

**In support of Nevada Indian Commission's-Indian Education Advisory Committee, the Native American Indian and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan, 2009 to 2012.**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc., is organized and operates in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, amended in November 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN) are stated in the Constitution, Preamble; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Board, and body comprised of the twenty-seven (27) elected representatives of the member tribes in the State of Nevada and whose charter is ratified by these same tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. has a continuing interest in the health, education, and well-being if their Indian people; and


**WHEREAS**, the State of Nevada, Nevada Indian Commissions Indian Education Advisory Committee has been working on the Nevada American and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan, July 2009 to 2012.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Nevada, Board of Education and Department of Education has entrusted the Nevada Indian Commission-Indian Education Advisory Committee with the development of the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan of July 2009 to 2012.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive Board, on behalf of their membership, hereby support the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan of July 2009 to 2012 to the State of Nevada Board of Education for approval and adoption in meeting the educational goals of the Nevada Tribes.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada's Executive Board, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008, by a vote of 12 FOR, 0 AGAINST, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

  
Davis Gonzales, Secretary  
ITCN Executive Board

RESOLUTION NO. 08-ITCN-06  
APPROVED: JULY 18, 2008

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