



Tabletop Session Summary

May 27, 2021

Tribal Consultations: Building a Foundation for Partnership

Presenters: Mandy Smoker Broddus, (Assiniboine and Sioux), [Region 17 Comprehensive Center](#); Sara Price, [Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation Department of Education and Training](#); Donnie Wetzel (Blackfeet, Amskapi Pikuni), [Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit, Montana Office of Public Instruction](#)

This tabletop discussion examined the importance of effective consultation between states, schools, and tribes to improve outcomes for Native students.

Session Highlights

- » The American Rescue Plan specifically calls for collaboration (including tribal representation) to effectively respond to student needs due to the pandemic.
- » Evidence-based practices and interventions are vital to addressing student academic, cultural, social emotional, linguistic, and mental health needs. While more research is needed on effective interventions in an American Indian and Alaska Native context, educators can take practices that best fit their context and shape and refine them to meet the needs of Native students.
- » It is important that tribes offer ongoing input into educational plans and not just review materials. Having a signoff process in place to confirm that consultations have occurred can be helpful.
- » Over the last two years, the National Comprehensive Center has through the Native Education Collaborative helped to determine needs and interests in the field of American Indian and Alaska Native education. Circles of Reflection were held to discuss ways to advance teaching and learning, incorporate culturally responsive practices, and to develop actionable plans to improve outcomes for Native students.
- » In Northeast Oklahoma, there are 67 local education agencies on tribal reservations serving over 21,000 American Indian and Alaska Native students. Tribal consultation in Oklahoma has been based on building relational trust and has included assessing and planning, tracking action, evaluation, and sustainability.
- » In Montana, building authentic relationships and including youth voices have been at the heart of meaningful consultation.

Shared Resources

- » [Every Student Succeeds Act Tribal Consultation Pre-Planning Tool for Tribes](#)
- » [Hui Mālama O Ke Kai Foundation](#)
- » [Native Education Collaborative](#)
- » [Native Land Digital](#)



Questions and Answers on Tribal Consultations: Building a Foundation for Partnership

Are you working in culturally sustaining pedagogy frameworks?

The Region 17 Comprehensive Center is currently updating an older publication on this topic and may reach out to partners for feedback.

Montana has been looking at an inclusive school climate that immerses tribal philosophies and traditions into the school routine.

What are some of the challenges you face in bridging gaps between districts, state education agencies, and tribes?

In Oklahoma, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has made an effort to focus on their own sphere of influence. They focus on districts that are looking to build partnerships and want support and reciprocity.

In Oregon, the Government-to-Government Tribal Education Cluster brings together tribes, the Governor's Office, and other state agencies for consultation on a regular basis.

Michigan's Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors provides a structure for ongoing consultation with tribes.

How can large technical assistance centers and research institutes help support the work of building bridges and fill gaps?

Data collection support on the Tier 4 level would be useful. Advocacy for tribal consultations would also be helpful. Having a seat at the table is important.

Has anyone been able to engage in joint research efforts in an action research or community-based participatory research model?

There are some discussions in Region 17 about an evaluation related to traditional ecological knowledge and the application of that model to workforce readiness for two-year college students.

What does tribal consultation look like in terms of summer planning and spending of American Rescue Plan funds?

Montana has been engaged in strategic planning related to the American Rescue Plan funding and has plans to hold webinars for their tribal nations to think about the enrichment piece.

In Oklahoma, there are efforts being made to open extracurricular and other activities that were being hindered due to the pandemic.

Can you share any examples of summer programs that are supportive of Native students?

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