Native Education Collaborative
Connecting partners | Cultivating resources

College and Career Readiness and Access: Improving Native Education

Overall Themes

- Cultural norms for Native students see learning as a collective experience

- Native students feel more belonging when the classroom context matches their cultural understandings of self

- Success for Native students prepares them for life in both the Western and Native worlds

- Giftedness is diverse and can differ by each tribe/culture

- Native students construct reality from oral traditions

- Rural Native youth are strongly connected to their cultural home

5 Improvements for Native Education

- Increase the use of Native languages and cultures in school

- Develop genuine tribal control

- Create comprehensive student support

- Recruit and retain highly effective teachers and school leaders

- Increase funding

5 Focus Areas for Improvement

- School discipline

- College readiness

- School conditions

- Academic success

- Technology access

7 Strategies for Improving Native Student Support

- Strengthen and expand suicide prevention efforts
- Improve community systems of care to address Native youth's behavioral health needs
- Strengthen the integration of Native cultures and languages into school climates and classrooms

- Strengthen tribal control of education
- Provide comprehensive, community-based supports
- Support highly effective teachers and leaders
- Promote 21st century technology for tribal education

5 Ways to Avoid Microaggressions Toward Native Students

- Promote supportive teacher-student interactions by disrupting institutional assumptions of inferiority
- Support the diversity of Native students within the campus climate
- Disrupt epistemologies linking students of color to criminality

- Do not assume students of color share universal experiences
- Integrate Native culture and values in the campus climate, rather than assuming white, middle class values and communication styles as the norm

7 Considerations for Native Education

- Provide individualized learning
- Support cultural identity
- Raise cultural capital
- Provide student-centered and experiential learning
- Integrate culture formally and informally in academics

- Take a holistic approach with stakeholders
- Recognize bicultural and cultural plurality

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