

Get Smart Fast: Collaborating to Improve Education for Native Children and Youth

Why does this topic matter?

- As sovereign nations, Tribes have the potential to exercise great influence over the education of their citizens, helping schools with decisionmaking on behalf of Native students.
- Tribal nations, Tribal educational agencies (TEAs), and Tribal educational departments (TEDs) as well as state and local educational agencies (SEAs and LEAs) share interconnected concerns and abilities to safeguard and care for students and provide healthy and positive educational environments.
- The Every Student Succeeds Act underscores the importance of meaningful collaboration between Tribes, Tribal organizations, and educational agencies.

What does the evidence say?

In addition to school and family, Tribes enhance students' overall educational progress through support and bonds that connect and strengthen their communities and citizenry. By collaborating with Tribes, SEAs and LEAs can promote culturally relevant learning opportunities and assist in removing barriers to academic success.

Specific examples of increasing collaboration include:

- Increasing Tribal representation in **curriculum development**
- Focusing on Native culture and language in LEA programs and **educator professional development**
- Fostering **norms of collaboration** and consultation between educators and Tribal members
- Establishing and identifying **funding streams** that support Native education and programming
- Establishing a **repository of Native education research** and best practices

The [Native Education Collaborative](#), with guidance from Native education experts and literature reviews, identified the following six categories, representing some of the most critical topics influencing Native education today:



**Native Culture
and Language**



**Tribal Consultation
and Sovereignty**



**Effective Teachers
and Leaders**



**College and Career
Readiness and Access**



**Physical and
Behavioral Health**



**Identification and
Support of Promising
Programs and Practices**

What do conditions of success look like?

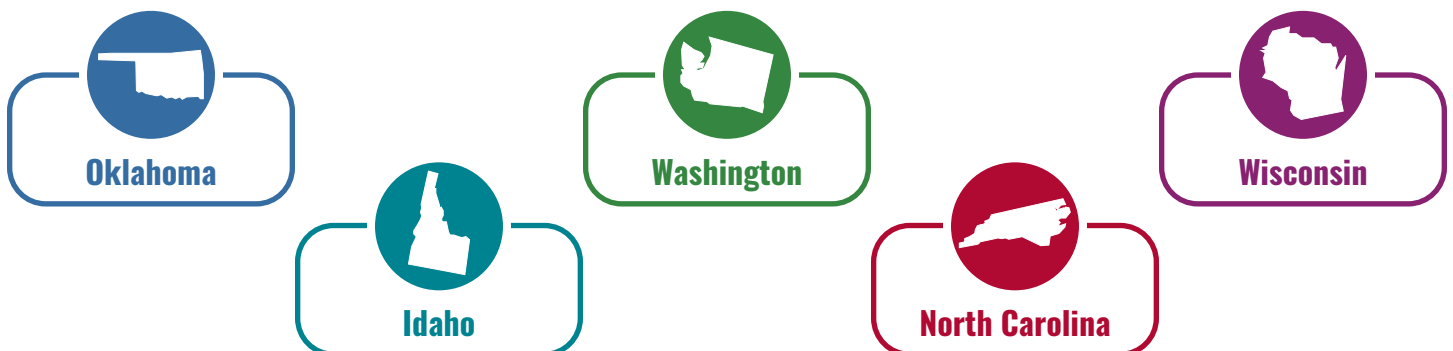
Programs and practices that promote conditions of success:

- Identify successful local programs and practices that benefit Native students and their families
- Support the expansion of promising programs and practices to other locations
- Involve collaboration with Tribes to learn how to support local programs and practices that benefit Native students and their families
- Ensure that the interests of Native students and their families are incorporated into the design and adoption of all programs
- Raise the capacity of SEAs as they collaborate with TEDs/TEAs, Tribal representatives, and LEAs to support educational attainment for Native students

What innovative models exist?



Circles of Reflection: A Toolkit for SEAs creates an environment for rich, reflective discussions between Tribal leaders, SEAs, and LEAs. The three-step process examines what is currently being done to support Native students, prioritizes what needs to be done moving forward, and then sets a plan in motion to create meaningful change. [SEAs that have participated \(so far\) include:](#)



How are efforts funded?

A collection of external funding streams for SEAs, LEAs, and TEDs/TEAs, including grants and programs, is provided by the [Office of Indian Education](#).

For more information and helpful resources, visit <https://compcenternetwork.org/>

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