



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Indian Education Specialist

One key education goal for Oregon is to ensure that 40% of adult Oregonians earn a bachelor's degree or higher, another 40% earn an associate's degree or post-secondary credential, and the remaining 20% earn a high school diploma or its equivalent (40/40/20 goal). Yet the educational outcomes remain stagnant for Native American youth in Oregon.

The 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 four year cohort graduation rates for Native American students in Oregon (51.7%, 50.3%, and 51.2% respectively) fall far short of the 40/40/20 goal. There is also a disproportionately high dropout rate among Native American students in Oregon. While the Native American student population comprised 2.0% of the 2009-10 October enrollments for grades 9-12, they represented 4.1% of all dropouts that year. Discipline data for Native American youth is also alarming. The most recent discipline data collected by the Department of Education reveals that Native American students receive a disproportionate number of days of suspension compared to the total student population.

Our Native American students and parents need more support to achieve academic success. Students are in need of additional educational, physical, and cultural activities that pertain to their native language, culture, and history. Additionally, teachers, administrators, and other staff can benefit from cultural competency training to explore their understanding of the unique cultural attributes of the communities they serve.

Proposal

The Department of Education is seeking \$230,000 for an Indian Education Specialist who will be located in the newly created Office of Educational Equity. The Indian Education Specialist will focus on the following:

- **Tribes:** Collaborate with the nine Confederated Tribes through the government-to-government process to develop initiatives that benefit Native American students.
- **Curriculum:** Work with tribal leaders and other stakeholders to identify and develop curriculum that aligns to indigenous people's values, implements Oregon tribal history and fosters the teaching of the indigenous languages of Oregon tribes.
- **Educators:** Assist teachers in aligning instructional techniques to how Native American students learn based on culturally competent best practices.
- **Districts:** Assist districts in establishing relationships with local tribes to improve school districts' understanding of Native American culture and communities.

Support for this position will help to improve the educational outcomes for Oregon's Native American students.