



To: Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
From: April Campbell, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Date: March 12, 2013
Subject: Indian Education Specialist Policy Option Package

My name is April Campbell. I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) and am employed by my Tribe as the Education Division Manager. I also serve as the facilitator for the Government-to-Government (G2G) Education cluster.

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Rob Saxton, has shared with you the startling statistics about dropout rates, achievement gaps, and alarming disproportionate discipline of our American Indian & Alaskan Native students. Others have shared inequities in Oregon's educational system as it relates to underrepresented students. Oregon has an opportunity to begin addressing these needs by creating an Indian Education Specialist position. This position is essential to the success of our youth and will help Oregon become a model for other states.

The Indian Education Specialist position will be devoted to Indian Education issues, and will collaboratively work with Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribes to develop initiatives which will preserve and foster the teaching of indigenous languages, create and implement accurate and culturally responsive curriculum and history. This position will also develop effective strategies for the education of American Indian & Alaskan Native students.

Our people have passed their knowledge, values, and experiences to others for generations, some refer to this as "Indian Education." This information is valued not only among our people but all Oregonians. One may consider this "Indian Education" as a process which tribes are given the opportunity to provide input in classrooms in a way that is inviting and respectful to all youth. As a teacher, "Indian Education" reflects in the academic performance of youth through student outcome and achievement. For administrators this refers to instructional approaches that will enhance student readiness and learning.

Ultimately, the Indian Education Specialist will identify, create, and implement strategies to address the deficiencies currently in Oregon's educational institutions, thus meeting the needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native students. The G2G cluster continues to support the Indian Education Specialist position and is currently working on the Oregon Indian Alaska Native State Plan to align its efforts with that of the work being created by the Governor's Office and other educational agencies. As the plan unfolds we would like to come back to this Committee to share the process and how it relates specifically to the duties tribes envision for the Plan. As noted earlier, the position itself is not a fix all for all inequities but is the necessary starting point.

Thank you,

April Campbell