



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

SB 14: American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Education Plan Senate Committee on Education February 11, 2019

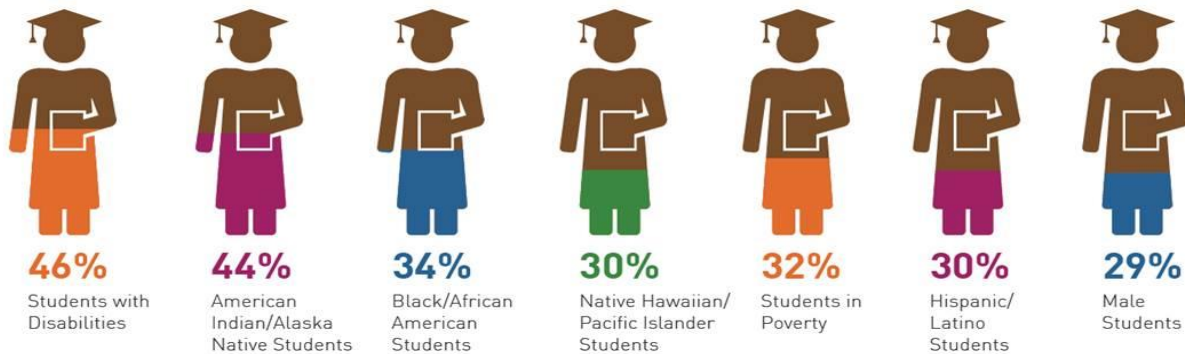
Good afternoon, Senator Wagner and members of the committee. For the record, I am Colt Gill, director of the Oregon Department of Education. With me is April Campbell, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and ODE’s Indian Education Advisor. We are here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 14.

SB 14 puts the existing American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Student Success Education plan into state law and funds its activities. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is seeking position authority and funding for a position to work with districts using the plan including policy, research, professional development, and curriculum implementation.

Why an America Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Education Plan is Needed

Educational outcomes remain stagnant for American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students in Oregon. AI/AN students are chronically absent more often (30%) than their non-Native peers (19%). AI/AN students graduate high school at lower rates (59% in 2016-17) than non-Native students (78%) and enroll in post-secondary schools at lower rates (48% v. 58%). Approximately 75% of AI/AN students are economically disadvantaged. In 2017, ODE reported on AI/AN academic achievement ([American Indian/ Alaska Native Students in Oregon: A Review of Key Indicators](#)) which illustrated the challenges facing our AI/AN students.

Students Who Did Not Graduate On Time in 2015-2016



Less than 1% of school teachers and administrators identify as American Indian/Alaska Native. Teacher preparation and administrative certification programs need to offer cultural competency coursework that includes information on developing relationships, creating relevant practices, and promoting values that help AI/AN children achieve and succeed.

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. Teacher preparation and administrative certification programs need to offer cultural competency coursework that includes information on developing relationships, creating relevant practices, and promoting values that help AI/AN children achieve and succeed.

While the 2017-2018 Oregon Department of Education data indicates the population of AI/AN students in the state as 8,201, this is likely an underreporting of the population due to a revision in U.S. Department of Education reporting requirements which do not count AI/AN multi-racial students as AI/AN.¹ The result is an inaccurate accounting and underrepresentation of all AI/AN students within the public K-12 system. Having a position to help support developing a solution to accurately identify Oregon AI/AN students is needed.

Issue:

The ODE State Board of Education adopted the [American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Education Plan for 2015-2017](#). The plan contains specific objectives yet lacks adequate funding for implementation. This plan is currently being revised for the 2018-22 school years. This process includes input from both the Government-to-Government Education Cluster and the American Indian Alaska Native Advisory Committee; both have shared support of this measure.

Legislation:

Passage of this bill would support ODE's efforts to develop and implement the statewide AI/AN students.

The department will use the existing Government-to-Government Education Cluster and AI/AN Advisory Panel consisting of representatives from Oregon's tribal governments, community members, education stakeholders and representatives of the Early Learning Division, the Youth Development Division, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and the Teachers Practices Commission to advise the department regarding:

- Updating and implementation of the plan;
- Development of eligibility criteria, applicant selection process and expectations for recipients of grant awards described in this legislative concept; and

¹Obscured Identities: Improving the Accuracy of Identification of American Indian and Alaska Native Student-s Education Northwest: <http://educationnorthwest.org/sites/default/files/events/resources/obscuredidentities.pdf>

- Adoption of rules by the State Board of Education for the implementation of the plan.

The plan developed under SB 14 shall examine, develop strategies and make recommendations regarding the following issues:

- Creating more welcoming schools for parents and students leading to increased parental engagement and higher student attendance.
- Addressing the disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents for AI/AN students compared to all students in the education system;
- Addressing academic performance disparities experienced by AI/AN students in every indicator of academic success;
- Historical practices leading to disproportionate outcomes for AI/AN students.
- Educational needs of AI/AN students from early childhood through post-secondary education by examining culturally appropriate best practices in this state and across the nation.
- Increasing the engagement of AI/AN students in educational activities before and after regular school hours;
- Increasing early childhood and kindergarten readiness for AI/AN students;
- Improving literacy and numeracy levels among AI/AN students between kindergarten and grade three;
- Supporting AI/AN student transitions to middle school and through the middle and high school grades to maintain and improve academic performance;
- Supporting culturally responsive pedagogy, curricula, and practices from early childhood through post-secondary education;
- Increasing attendance of AI/AN students in early childhood through post-secondary and professional certification programs; and
- Increasing attendance of AI/AN students in four-year post-secondary institutions of education.

Fiscal:

- \$5.2 million of which some of these funds will be made available to districts via grants. \$1.8 million will be distributed to federally recognized tribes in Oregon to continue efforts towards building American Indian curriculum as required by SB 13 (2017)

Related Initiatives (found in POP 102):

- \$2.5m for CTE Revitalization grants for schools with significant numbers of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students, identified in collaboration with local tribes. The

Oregon Department of Education

2017 Oregon Department of Education report entitled *American Indian/Alaska Native Students in Oregon: A Review of Key Indicators*² shows a marked increase in academic attainment for AI/AN students that are CTE Concentrators, as well as a dramatic increase in graduation rates for AI/AN that concentrate in CTE programs when compared to counterparts that don't.

- \$2m to continue the development of Oregon American Indian K-12 curriculum. In conjunction with SB 13 (2017), this investment is intended provide an accurate and complete curricula that recognizes the cultural heritage, history, and language of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. The initial \$2 million received for the 2017-19 provided funding to create curriculum for 4th, 8th, and 10th grades and of which \$1.8 million was allocated as grants-in-aid to Oregon's federally recognized tribal governments to create similar placed-based curriculum.

ODE is working to create and implement a historically accurate and culturally relevant curriculum on American Indians in Oregon, for students from kindergarten through grade 12. The curriculum content will include Oregon tribal history, sovereignty, culture, treaty rights, government, socio-economic experiences, and current events. All content will align with academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education under ORS 329.045.

Thank you for your attention; I am happy to answer any questions.

Helpful Links:

[American Indian/Alaska Native Students in Oregon](#)

[American Indian/Alaska Native Education Plan](#)

[Tribal Attendance Project](#)

² *American Indian/Alaska Native Students in Oregon: A Review of Key Indicators*
https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/researchbriefs/Documents/Internal/American_Indian_Alaska_Native_Students_In_Oregon.pdf