



Native Literacy Work Group

The Office of Native Education (ONE) has been working toward convening a Native Literacy work group as defined in [Substitute Senate Bill 5187](#). Funds have been provided for ONE to convene a work group to develop supports necessary in serving American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth identified as needing additional literacy supports through FY 2025. This work group will include representation from our federally recognized Tribes as well as educational and community representation from across Washington.

The Office of Native Education has reached out to educators across the state to join our work group. We will begin this work in late October.

What Does This Work Cover?

To accomplish the objectives outlined in SSB 5187 the work group completed data review and analysis and will develop and propose a literacy framework identifying specific components for successfully teaching reading to Native American students. The work group will meet regularly to:

- Learn from school districts piloting literacy training on how adaptations, modifications, and supplemental training to those programs can better ensure Native American student needs and community and family priorities are included.
- Participate in professional learning (webinars, book study, etc.) to deepen understanding of underlying causes of and solutions to the struggles some students encounter learning to read proficiently.
- Work with OSPI to conduct an audit of existing resources that support the implementation of the framework. This includes reviewing the John McCoy (lulilaš) Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State (JMLSTI) curriculum to determine if there are opportunities to strengthen the connection of Native culture and history to literacy strategies.
- Compile recommended strategies for reading supports for Native students who, in public schools, are identified for Tier 2 and 3 services.
- Identify questions and tools for OSPI for using multiple measures of reading proficiency to ensure a richer, more detailed report on progress by Native American students.
- Work with OSPI to create a resource for all school districts and state-tribal education compact schools based on the above—draft resource to be completed by summer 2025.

The Office of Native Education will assist the work group in leading literacy initiatives and curate resources, and host various convenings around the state, that will allow us to gather our Native families, share resources, and receive community feedback on this important work.



Why Native Student Literacy?

Our US education systems often portray Native students as performing below grade level and “at-risk” in a variety of subject areas. Through this work we would like to shift that understanding, and instead focus on where we can leverage our work together to increase access to great instruction and materials. This should reduce barriers for our students in the classroom, resulting in overall higher achievement and academic success.

Where Do I Go for Questions?

This work will continue to evolve as our many partners offer feedback and guidance to meet the needs of our students. We welcome questions about this work as we continue to learn and grow together.

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