

NATIVE EDUCATION POLICY IN WASHINGTON STATE

Presentation to the
California State

Select Committee on Native American Affairs and
Assembly Education Committee



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Chair, House Education Committee

NAME THIS ANIMAL



qai'qaləx ič



ORCINUS ORCA



Killer Whale



How is success measured?



Who decides?



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

*If you have come here to help me, you are wasting
your time.*

*But if you have come because your liberation is
bound up with mine, then let us work together.*

Lila Watson

Muri of Queensland



Washington State Native Education Timeline

| | | |
|---|------|---|
| Centennial Accord commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Washington Statehood | 1989 | |
| | 1999 | Millennial Agreement |
| John McCoy (Tulalip) elected to the Washington State House of Representatives | 2003 | |
| | 2005 | House Bill 1495, Tribal History and Culture legislation enacted |
| Claudia Kauffman (Nez Perce) elected as first Native woman in the Washington State Senate | 2007 | |
| | 2008 | Washington State Legislature commissions community-centered reports on education inequities "From Where the Sun Rises: Addressing the Educational Achievement of Native Americans in Washington State" |
| Senate Bill 5973, Establishing the Educational Opportunity (formerly Achievement) Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) | 2009 | |
| | 2013 | EOGOAC Annual Report, "Closing Opportunity Gaps in Washington's Public Education System," Omnibus Recommendations to the Legislature |
| | | House Bill 1134, State-Tribal Compact Schools authorized |
| Senate Bill 5433, Tribal History and Culture legislative mandate enacted | 2015 | |
| | 2016 | House Bill 1541, Implementing Strategies to Close the Opportunity Gap based on the Recommendations of the EOGOAC |
| Race and Ethnicity Student Data Guidance published | 2017 | |
| | 2019 | Deborah Lekanoff (Tlingit) elected to the Washington State House of Representatives |



2005

*The legislature further finds
that the lack of accurate
and complete curricula
may contribute to the
persistent achievement
gap between Indian and
other students.*

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1495

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McCoy, Roach, Simpson, P. Sullivan, McDermott, Santos, Appleton, Darneille, Williams, Hunt, Haigh, Chase, Sells, Conway, Kenney, Kagi, Moeller, Ormsby and Blake)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to teaching Washington's tribal history, culture,
2 and government in the common schools; amending RCW 28A.230.090; adding
3 a new section to chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. It is the intent of the legislature to
7 promote the full success of the centennial accord, which was signed by
8 state and tribal government leaders in 1989. As those leaders declared
9 in the subsequent millennial accord in 1999, this will require
10 "educating the citizens of our state, particularly the youth who are
11 our future leaders, about tribal history, culture, treaty rights,
12 contemporary tribal and state government institutions and relations and
13 the contribution of Indian nations to the state of Washington." The
14 legislature recognizes that this goal has yet to be achieved in most of
15 our state's schools and districts. As a result, Indian students may
16 not find the school curriculum, especially Washington state history
17 curriculum, relevant to their lives or experiences. In addition, many
18 students may remain uninformed about the experiences, contributions,
19 and perspectives of their tribal neighbors, fellow citizens, and

2015

*[T]he legislature finds that
merely encouraging
education regarding
Washington's tribal history,
culture, and government is
not sufficient, and hereby
declares its intent that such
education be mandatory in
Washington's common
schools.*

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5433

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Rolfes, Roach, Fain, Hasegawa, Dammeier, McCoy, Nelson, Frockt, McAuliffe, Rivers, Kohl-Welles, Chase, Jayapal, Conway, and Habib)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to teaching Washington's tribal history, culture,
2 and government in the common schools; amending RCW 28A.320.170; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes the need to
6 reaffirm the state's commitment to educating the citizens of our
7 state, particularly the youth who are our future leaders, about
8 tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state
9 government institutions and relations and the contribution of Indian
10 nations to the state of Washington. The legislature recognizes that
11 this goal has yet to be achieved in most of our state's schools and
12 districts. As a result, Indian students may not find the school
13 curriculum, especially Washington state history curriculum, relevant
14 to their lives or experiences. In addition, many students may remain
15 uninformed about the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of
16 their tribal neighbors, fellow citizens, and classmates. The
17 legislature finds that more widespread use of the Since Time
18 Immemorial curriculum developed by the office of the superintendent
19 of public instruction and available free of charge to schools would
20 contribute greatly towards helping improve school's history
21 curriculum and improve the experiences Indian students have in our



OTHER NATIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

State Tribal Education Compact Schools
(2013)

Race and Ethnicity Student Data
Guidance (2017)

Required Administrator Training on
Government-to-Government Relations
(2021)

Banning Native Names, Symbols, and
Images (2021)

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