SOUTH DAKOTA
EDUCATION
EQUITY
COALITION

South Dakota Education Equity Coalition

Mission Statement: To create innovative, equitable and inclusive opportunities to ensure all South Dakota youth are provided with a constitutionally protected right to an adequate education.

Indigenous Public Charter Schools Initiative

We are a community of stakeholders who are committed to promoting diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environments for future generations.

Indigenous Public Charter Schools Initiative
DRAFT (August 15, 2019)

Mission: To create equitable and inclusive education options and solutions to close the educational achievement gap for Native American youth in South Dakota.

Goals:

1) Create legislation to support a community-based Public Charter Schools model of Indigenous education.
2) Create a funding model to support community-based Public Charter Schools model of education.

Problem:

Existing educational structures do not meet the academic, spiritual, cultural, and social needs of Indigenous students in South Dakota as evidenced by statewide achievement data.

Desired Outcome:

By 2025 Indigenous students in South Dakota will experience greater access to educational opportunities on the path to educational equity. Similar to Pemayetv Emahakv (Pema-yetta Emma-ha-ga) Charter School, one of Florida's highest achieving and most innovative charter school located on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in Okeechobee, Florida; a network of charter schools will be established to alleviate educational inequity in South Dakota.

Next Steps:

The South Dakota Educational Equity Coalition will:

1) Convene an advisory board spanning multiple Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities
2) Create and execute a campaign to pass charter legislation
3) Secure resources for new schools and then create a plan for expanding strong educational opportunities for Native students
4) Identify and/or establish schools and classrooms will have proven what's possible in culturally-responsive education, illuminating a path for replication