



SD Indian Education Advisory Council



2023 Annual Report

Prepared by:
Fred Osborn, Director of the Office of Indian Education
Department of Tribal Relations

December 6, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council (SD IEAC) is hereby sharing the following recommendations to all stakeholders involved in the education of Native American students in South Dakota. The SD IEAC membership consists of Indian Education experts from across the state and region who are recommended by their schools, organizations, tribes, and communities. Council members work collectively to close the educational opportunity gap and increase academic achievement for all Native American students in South Dakota. The Office of Indian Education and the Department of Tribal Relations will continue to work in collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Education and the Region 11 Comprehensive Center to support the efforts of the SD IEAC.

South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council Membership

Open	Tribal Designee	Oglala Sioux Tribe
Dr. Cherie Farlee	Tribal Designee	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Dr. Sherry Johnson	Tribal Designee	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Juliana Taken Alive	Tribal Designee	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Cindy Young	Tribal Designee	Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Open	Tribal Designee	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Brian Wagner	Tribal Designee	Lower Brule Tribe
Darrel George Howe	Tribal Designee	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

Jolene Arrow	Tribal Designee	Yankton Sioux Tribe
Open	Public School District Representative	
Dr. Ann Robertson	Public School District Representative	Whittier Middle School
Megan Deal	Public School District Representative	Pierre School District
Josie Green	Member at Large	Teach for America - South Dakota
Jacqueline Sly	Member at Large	
Kay Schallenkamp	Member at Large	
Open	SD Board of Education Standards Representative	
Janice Minder	SD Board of Regents Representative	SD Board of Regents
Loren Paul	SD Education Association President	South Dakota Education Association
David Flute	Ex-officio Member	Department of Tribal Relations
Dr. Joseph Graves	Ex-officio Member	Department of Education
Fred Osborn	Executive Director	SD Office of Indian Education
Erika Cerveny	Council Secretary	SD Office of Indian Education

Pursuant to SDCL 1-54-11, the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council shall make an annual report to the Governor and the State-Tribal Relations Committee by January first each year. The report will be submitted to the Governor’s Office, Secretary of Tribal Relations, and Tribal Leaders.

The South Dakota IEAC met on the following dates:

Date	Facilitator	Role
December 20, 2022	Executive Director Fred Osborn	Director, Office of Indian Education
May 30, 2023	Executive Director Fred Osborn	Director, Office of Indian Education
July 26, 2023	Executive Director Fred Osborn	Director, Office of Indian Education
October 25, 2023	Executive Director Fred Osborn	Director, Office of Indian Education
November 15, 2023	Executive Director Fred Osborn	Director, Office of Indian Education

SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL IN OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND STANDARDS REVISIONS

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council continues its request to be designated the selection committee for the upcoming Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards revision and update, including providing nominations and persons to sit on the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards revision team.

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests to review any updates or changes to the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards prior to release for public comment.

ADDRESSING STUDENT IDENTIFICATION OF NATIVE STUDENTS

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests inquiry into the under reporting of Native students due to the “2 or more races” option in student demographic surveys. The Council believes this may result in under reporting of Native students and requests that once this selection has been made on student demographic surveys, a further option is available to allow identification of which race makes up the “2 or more races” selection in order to make a more accurate determination of the Native student population in South Dakota.

ADDRESSING STUDENT ATTENDANCE/ABSENTEEISM

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests the South Dakota Department of Education continue to monitor chronic absenteeism and provide a research and data report on Native student attendance to include absences, reasons for absences, and best practices by schools with low absenteeism.

CONCLUSION

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council continues to advocate for the improvement of educational opportunities for South Dakotan Native American students. The above recommendations are provided by the IEAC stakeholders as guidance for the State of South Dakota and the agencies it governs, as we all work toward the goal and promise of educational equity for students. All institutions, organizations and others involved in the education of Native American students should use these recommendations to inform their efforts.

In addition, the following actions were taken by the South Dakota Office of Indian Education and the South Dakota Department of Education in response to the 2022 SD IEAC Annual Report and Recommendations:

MAKING THE OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND STANDARDS PART OF THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests the South Dakota Department of Education to include an assurance statement from schools in the accreditation process acknowledging compliance implementing the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards (OSEUS) in their school's curriculum.

The South Dakota Department of Education acknowledges that schools who teach the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings & Standards (OSEUS) must do so according to State standards. Additionally, in an effort to determine the frequency and vigor to which schools are teaching the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings & Standards (OSEUS), a survey of South Dakota teachers and administrators was issued beginning November of 2023 through joint collaboration of the South Dakota Department of Education, the South Dakota Office of Indian Education, and the Region 11 Comprehensive Center. It is anticipated the results of this survey will be available 2024.

INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL IN OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND STANDARDS REVISIONS

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests to be designated the selection committee for the upcoming Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards revision and update, including providing nominations and persons to sit on the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards revision team.

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests to review any updates or changes to the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards prior to release for public comment.

The South Dakota Department of Education will begin selection and formation of the committee to review the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings & Standards (OSEUS) Spring 2024. As such, this recommendation is part of the 2023 South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council recommendations above.

ADDRESSING STUDENT ATTENDANCE/ABSENTEEISM

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council hereby requests the South Dakota Department of Education provide a research and data report on Native student attendance to include absences, reasons for absences, and best practices by schools with low absenteeism.

Beginning January 25, 2023, the South Dakota Office of Indian Education began informing members of the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council and members of the NativeAmericanK12Education listserv of free training opportunities addressing chronic absenteeism and best practices. Information on the following free webinar series were provided:

***Making a Difference for American Indian and Alaska Native Students: Innovations and Wise Practices* series, a 6-part series focusing on *Chronic Absence(s)* provided by the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center and the Comprehensive Centers network representing Region 11, Region 13, Region 15, Region 16, and Region 17.**

On October 16, 2023, the South Dakota Department of Education held the Focus on Success Forum in Pierre, SD. This one-day event focused on evidence-based interventions/strategies to address absenteeism in schools. Outcomes from the seminars included:

- 1. gain a deeper understanding of the specific challenges affecting their schools, enabling them to pinpoint root causes and areas needing immediate attention.**
- 2. will gain an increased understanding of evidence-based interventions/strategies, will engage with implementation science frameworks, and will begin conversations necessary to customize interventions/strategies aligned with their school's unique context.**
- 3. will begin discussions around innovative strategies and ideas focused on the Whole Child, including attendance, student and family engagement, and out of school time; academic achievement, and high school graduation rates.**
- 4. will leave with a network of support for ongoing collaboration.**