



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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February 4, 2016

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Action Required

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Informational

BULLETIN NO. 006-16 OFFICE OF NATIVE EDUCATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
Bilingual Education Program Directors

FROM: Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Implementing 2015 Senate Bill 5433 Requirements for Teaching Tribal History, Culture, and Government

CONTACT: Michael Vendiola, Program Supervisor, Office of Native Education
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The 2015 Legislature passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 5433](#) that amended [RCW 28A.320.170](#) with new requirements related to teaching Washington's tribal history, culture, and government in Washington's public schools. This bulletin provides clarification for school districts regarding partnerships with local tribes and requirements for the adoption/use of Washington's *Since Time Immemorial Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum* (STI:TSC).

As a district reviews and revises social studies and history curricula, [RCW 28A.320.170](#) requires the following:

- Incorporation of the STI:TSC into current and newly adopted social studies and/or history curricula.
- Collaboration with federally recognized Indian tribes within/neighbors their district boundaries.

Background

The STI:TSC was developed in 2007 by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Office of Native Education (ONE) section through a true partnership between OSPI, Northwest Tribes, public and tribal school teachers, university staff, state organizations, and Tribal organizations. Districts that have used and integrated the curriculum have found that it is engaging and relevant for all students and it greatly

contributes toward improving Washington state history curriculum. Further, its use has contributed to improving the connections and experiences of Indian students in our public schools. The curriculum is available free of charge and completely online to schools.

STI:TSC and Training

The STI:TSC is aligned to Washington's K–12 Learning Standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts (the Common Core State Standards). The curriculum includes short lessons for beginning teachers and entire units for U.S. History, Washington State History, and Contemporary World Problems courses. Within each unit, teachers choose from the three levels of instruction based on instructional needs and time constraints. The teacher chooses how much information and time to spend teaching the unit. The curriculum is currently available at www.indian-ed.org/.

Free training is available in various areas across the state through OSPI. There are two trainings available: Basic and Training of Trainers. It is recommended that districts send teams of teachers and administrators to trainings to promote longevity of implementation. Upcoming trainings can be found at www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/.

OSPI's Teaching & Learning (T&L) and ONE are partners in the adoption process of STI:TSC. The T&L Social Studies section can serve as another resource at OSPI.

Resources for Collaborating With Tribes

School districts conducting regularly scheduled reviews and revisions of social studies and history curricula shall collaborate with neighboring Tribes. This legislation provides an excellent opportunity for districts and Tribes to develop rich relationships that honor the local history, culture, and government; and that incorporate expanded curricular materials and community cultural exchanges for all students. Resources are available at www.indian-ed.org/ to support district and tribal connections. A few options to start with are:

- **Locating your local tribes:** <http://02af27e.netsolhost.com/indianed/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/NativeStudentEnrollmentDataComparison2009to2011.pdf>
 - This worksheet provides a list for school districts of the tribes closest to them.
- **Partnering with local tribes:** <http://02af27e.netsolhost.com/indianed/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Things-to-Consider-Partnering-w-Local-Tribes.pdf>*
 - This form provides items to consider when partnering with a Tribe.

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In addition, ONE staff are available to consult with school districts and tribes to assist with developing meaningful relationships.

For questions regarding this bulletin please contact Michael Vendiola at 360-725-6160 or michael.vendiola@k12.wa.us, or Joan Banker at 360-725-6160 or joan.banker@k12.wa.us, or Carol Coe at 360-725-6351 or carol.coe@k12.wa.us. The agency TTY number is 360-664-3631.

K-12 EDUCATION

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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