TOMORROW:
Tribal Consultation on Demonstration Grants

On May 7, 2019, the Department of Education (Department) will host a tribal consultation on a new proposed priority under the Demonstration Grants for Indian Students Program (Demonstration Grants Program) in Washington, DC. This consultation comes on the heels of a tribal consultation in Seattle, WA on May 2, 2019.

- As part of this consultation process, the Department has requested public comment from tribal leaders and communities until June 7, 2019

Under the Department’s proposed regulatory priority, tribes would act as portal administrators to distribute funds for services selected by parents and families. Such action would reallocate $10 million in funding historically granted to tribes for capacity-building and programming, thereby threatening tribal sovereignty over education.

Authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the
Demonstration Grants Program funds innovative programs that develop, test, and demonstrate effective services and programs for Native students across the nation. For fiscal years 2015 through 2018, this program has prioritized the Native Youth Community Projects (NYCP) grant, which promoted tribal partnerships with the purpose of increasing college and career readiness.

This proposal increases the portability of the funds from the Demonstration Grants Program, creating a voucher system that will divert funds from tribal education programs to private programs. Tribes remain the best equipped to support the needs of their students, and the new proposal from the Department of Education threatens the ability of tribes to exert sovereignty over Native education systems.

In previous years, Congress rejected proposals that implemented portability of other programs under ESSA, including Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies. Title I was written to provide purposeful appropriations to communities with concentrations of low-income students in order to challenge the impact of poverty on student learning. Just as with the new proposal for the Demonstration Grants Program, the rejected changes to Title I programs would have deprived current grantees of critical funding and resources, moving invaluable taxpayer dollars from the public sector to the private sector.

**NIEA urges tribal leaders, educators, and community members to ensure that Native students are reflected in any changes to the Demonstration Grants Program by engaging in the tribal consultation process.**

Register for May 7, 2019 Public Comment

Email Your Public Comment by June 7, 2019

Did you know NIEA provides year round Native education and advocacy resources? Join us at our 50th Annual NIEA Convention & Trade Show to learn more.
The 50th Annual NIEA Convention and Trade Show will take place in Minneapolis, MN, Oct. 8-12, 2019.

Registration is open to all educators, advocates, tribal leaders, researchers, parents, students....anyone who cares about Native education is encouraged to attend.

Students, Empowering Communities
As part of our commitment to improve educational opportunities for Native students, NIEA is invested in ensuring that schools, especially those with high Native student populations, find highly qualified educators. We believe that an integral part of fulfilling this commitment includes growing our Native teaching force to serve Native students.

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