Contact Your Representatives:

Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act

Last month, the Senate passed the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization (Esther Martinez) Act to reauthorize critical grants and support greater tribal flexibility for Native language immersion programs. Language is essential to culture-based education systems that serve the unique needs of Native students, and this Act provides critical funding to safeguard and share Native languages with our children and youth.

Despite passage in the Senate, the House has not yet moved forward with the bill. NIEA urges you to take action now - contact your representative today, and ask them to support Native students and language revitalization by co-sponsoring this bill. Your voice is critical for congressional leaders to understand the importance of language revitalization and programs in your school and community.

Find Your Representative

Read the NIEA Esther Martinez One-Pager
Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act

Congressional leaders in both the House of Representatives and the Senate introduced the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act yesterday. This bill takes critical steps to eliminate the export of, and encourage the repatriation of, Native cultural heritage. Trafficking in Native cultural patrimony threatens to erode tribal heritage, ceremonies, and traditions, stripping future generations of their best chance at success. By putting an end to the theft of Native cultures and sacred items, the STOP Act provides necessary protections for quality, culture-based education. Culture-based education is critical to the success of Native students, and an essential function of the federal government’s trust responsibility for Native people. In coalition with tribal nations and organizations across the country, NIEA endorses this legislation.

As the House of Representatives moves to advance this bill through committee, your voice is essential to demonstrate the importance of cultural patrimony in tribal communities. Contact your representative today and urge them to uphold the federal trust responsibility by co-sponsoring the STOP Act.

Find Your Representative

Read More from the Office of Rep. Ben Ray Lujan

SUBMIT NIEA RESOLUTIONS

Deadline: August 10, 2019

NIEA's policy priorities and advocacy work are developed and guided by resolutions drafted and passed by our membership. Resolutions cover a wide spectrum of topics related to Native education and serve as a key resource in communicating membership priorities to policy makers.
The Johnson O’Malley (JOM) Modernization Act became law in December 2018, updating the JOM Act of 1934. JOM provides supplementary funding for education and other services for Native students. The updated version of the law instructs the Secretary of the Interior to update the student count in order to ensure more accurate funding. As the Secretary drafts new regulations to implement this law, the BIE is hosting a series of tribal consultations to engage with tribal leaders on the definition of an eligible Indian student, the JOM funding formula, and current contracting processes.

Written comments are due on August 26, 2019.

UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS:

July 23, 2019
9 am – 12 pm (MDT)
Consultation with Tribes
Webinar Information forthcoming

July 23, 2019
1 pm – 4 pm (MDT)
Consultation with Eligible Entities
Webinar Information forthcoming

July 25, 2019
9 am – 12 pm (MDT)
Consultation with Tribes
Webinar Information forthcoming

July 25, 2019
1 pm – 4 pm (MDT)
Consultation with Eligible Entities
Webinar Information forthcoming

In addition, the BIE is now accepting comments and feedback regarding the data source utilized for the purposes of conducting the student count. The BIE is currently considering the following data sources:
BIE Consults on New Standards, Assessments, and Accountability Systems

In 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and became the federal governing statute for elementary and secondary education. To comply with the new legislation, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has been undergoing negotiated rulemaking to advise the Secretary in the development of standards, assessments, and accountability systems at Bureau-funded schools.

Based on a series of recommendations from the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, the BIE has proposed regulations to define these education systems for compliance, as well as to clarify the process for tribal waivers under ESSA. Over the coming month, the BIE will host a series of tribal consultations on these proposed regulations. Tribal consultation and engagement in this process is critical to ensuring that our schools reflect the students and communities that they serve. NIEA strongly urges tribes and tribal communities to provide both oral and written comments regarding the proposed regulations.

**Tribal Consultation Schedule:**

**July 23, 2019**
8:30 am - 5 pm
2001 Killebrew Drive, Minnesota Room, Bloomington, MN 55425

**July 26, 2019**
1 pm - 5 pm
Teleconference or Webinar

**July 30, 2019**
8:30 am - 5 pm
Washington, DC
(specific venue TBD)

**Written comments are due by August 9, 2019.**

NIEA looks forward to working with tribes, educators, and community
members to ensure equity in access to high-quality, culturally relevant education systems. If you have any questions or would like NIEA support as you engage in this process, contact NIEA Legislative Analyst Adrianne Elliott at aelliott@niea.org or 202-847-0040.

NOMINATIONS

Bureau of Indian Education is Seeking Nominations for Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is currently seeking nominations from tribes for individuals to serve on the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children. Under statute, this body serves as the BIE’s advising body on matters related to special education. There are four positions available, and board members will serve staggered terms of two or three years.

Nominations must be submitted by July 31, 2019.

Submit a Nomination

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

Empowering Students, Empowering Communities

DID YOU KNOW...As part of our commitment to improve educational opportunities for Native students, NIEA is
leaders, researchers, parents, students....anyone who cares about Native education is encouraged to attend.

We are strongly 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.

Register for Convention  Visit our website

See more upcoming events
Become a NIEA Member
Your generous support
50 years of Native Education Advocacy

202.544.7290  WEBSITE EMAIL

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