The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides tribes and states an important opportunity to advance tribal sovereignty and create positive and inclusive learning environments for Native students. Schools and Native communities must collaborate to ensure students are college, career, and community ready. As the only national organization advocating for improved educational opportunities for Native students, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) supports and builds partnerships between Native and allied stakeholders that provide opportunities for Native students to thrive in the classroom and beyond. This state profile is available to NIEA membership, tribal leadership, educators, and allies to provide important information and highlight available resources that may be of assistance in advocacy work.

**State Leadership**

- **Mark Dayton**  
  Governor  
  Appoints the Commissioner of Education.

- **Brenda Casselius**  
  Chief State School Officer  
  The Commissioner of Education is appointed by the Governor.

- **Suzanne Wise**  
  Minnesota Indian Education Association, Chair  
  MIEA is the primary state organization for advocacy on Native education issues.

**District Snapshot**

- **Number of School Districts:** 328

  - 824 TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS
  - 2,048 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
  - 165 CHARTER SCHOOLS

**Student Enrollment**

- **Native:** 20,556 (1.7%)  
  **Total:** 925,511 (100%)

**Federally Recognized Tribes**

- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
- Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Upper Sioux Community
- White Earth Nation

American Indian reservations and communities
Equal Opportunities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National Statistics (%)</th>
<th>AI/AN</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
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<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>86</td>
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Minnesota Student Profile

Young Children
- 32% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is under the age of 18.
- 5,511 American Indian children between the ages of 5-19 live in Minnesota.

Higher Education
- 3 Tribal Colleges serve just over 3,100 students in Minnesota.
- 11.1% of American Indians in Minnesota have a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

Community
- 30% of American Indian students suffer long term mental, behavioral, or emotional health problems.
- 23% of American Indians in Minnesota do not have access to a personal computer.

NAEP% Proficiency or Higher
- Minnesota Native: 13th
- Minnesota: 48th
- United States: 34th

Sources
- c. NCAI Midwest Regional Profile, NCAI Research Center.
- g. Rural Education in America, Nation Center for Education Statistics, 2014.

* Indicates too few respondents for statistical significance.

Engage

Minnesota State Native Education Legislation

- 1986: Minnesota conducts an Indian education needs assessment, which results in a comprehensive plan.
- 1988: The MN legislature adopts the Indian Education Act, which addressed the needs of Native students.
- 2000: “Success for the future” is formed from various grants funding Native education initiatives.
- 2001: The Indian Education Committee, which linked the MDE and MN tribes, is cancelled.
- 2002: Three Indian Education Offices consolidate in Roseville, MN due to state budget cuts.
- 2016: Minnesota begins to create state plans to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Find out more about how Minnesota is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its working committees on accountability, assessment, teacher quality, English learner, and school improvement.

Website: education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/ESSA/
Phone: (651) 582-8800

Language Immersion Programs
- Nay Ah Shig Ojibwe Language and Culture Program
  Onamia, MN
  www.nas.k12.mn.us/
- Niigaane Ojibwemowin Immersion Program
  Bena, MN
  www.bugonageshig.org
- Wicoie Nandagikendan: Dakota-Ojibwe Immersion Preschools
  Minneapolis, MN
  www.wicoinandagikendan.org/

ESSA Working Groups

Find out more about how Minnesota is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its working committees on accountability, assessment, teacher quality, English learner, and school improvement.

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