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.

Student Enrollment

- **Native**: 18,090 (11.7%)
- **Total**: 154,963 (100%)

**Where Do Native Students Attend School?**

- **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**: 824
- **CHARTER SCHOOLS**: 0
- **TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**: 512

**Federally Recognized Tribes**

- Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
- Blackfeet Nation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
- Crow Tribe of Indians
- Fort Belknap Indian Community (Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes)
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe

**District Snapshot**

- Number of School Districts: 413
- [Graph showing distribution of students by school type]
Montana State Native Education Legislation

**Equal Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Statistics (%)</th>
<th>AI/AN</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attend Rural Schools</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in Poverty</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time Teachers</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduation Rate</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
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<td>43</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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**Montana Student Profile**

- **Young Children**: 36% of the American Indian and Alaska Native Population is under that age of 18. The American Indian children under the age of 5 live in Montana.
- **Higher Education**: 7 Tribal Colleges serve just over 3,240 students in Montana.
- **Community**: 20.1% of American Indian students in Montana cities have attempted suicide in the past year. 31% of American Indians in Montana do not have access to a personal computer.

**NAEP% Proficiency or Higher**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4th Grade Reading</th>
<th>8th Grade Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana Native</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
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**Sources**

c. NCAI Rocky Mountain Regional Profile, NCAI Research Center.
g. Rural Education in America, Nation Center for Education Statistics, 2014.
i. United States Census Bureau, 2015.
m. IDEA Data, Department of Education, 2016.

Montana constitution includes a commitment to Native culture and heritage in public schools in the state education system.

State courts rule that schools must fund programs that educate Native students in accordance with the state’s constitution.

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education is created to advise the Office of Public Instruction on Native education.

The state legislature establishes the Indian Education Division through legislation known as Indian Education For All.

State legislators provide funding for programs included under the state’s Indian Education For All legislation.

Minnesota begins to create a state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act as required by federal law.

1972

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1984

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2005

State legislators provide funding for programs included under the state’s Indian Education For All legislation.

2016

Minnesota begins to create a state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act as required by federal law.

**Engage**

**Language Immersion Programs**

- The Piegan Institute: Cuts Wood Academy
  Browning, MT
  www.pieganinstitute.org/cutswoodacademy.html

- Nkwusm Salish School
  Arlee, MT
  salishworld.com/

- White Clay Language Immersion School
  Fort Belknap, MT
  www.facebook.com/whiteclay.immersionschool/

**ESSA Working Groups**

Find out more about how Montana is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its work on accountability, assessment, teacher quality, and school improvement.

Website: opi.mt.gov/ESSA/index.html

Contact: ESSAinput@mt.gov

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* Indicates too few respondents for statistical significance.