

# BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES POLICY FRAMEWORK

---

Dr. Charles M. Roessel, Director

March 12, 2015

Webinar

# Bureau of Indian Education Schools

- BIE-funded schools are located on 64 Tribal Communities
  - ✓ 46 Tribal Communities with 1 school
  - ✓ 7 Tribal Communities with 2 schools
  - ✓ 11 Tribal Communities with 3 or more schools
- 41,644 Total American Indian Students
- 3,000+ Teachers
- 185 schools and residential halls
  - ✓ 127 Tribally Controlled Schools
  - ✓ 58 Bureau Operated Schools
- Distributed Across 23 States

# BIE Native Language Summit and Policy Framework

## Overview of Initiative

- The purpose of the First BIE Native Languages Summit was to develop a policy framework for the Bureau of Indian Education on Native Languages (Tribally-Operated and BIE-Operated schools).
- The initial face-to-face meeting allowed the stakeholders to voice their experiences, concerns, and ideas around the topic of building native language fluency among students in BIE schools.

# BIE Native Language Summit and Policy Framework Overview of Initiative

- Workgroup Activities
  - September 2014 – BIE Principal’s Meeting (Inventory)
  - November 2014 – Native Language Summit
  - January 2015 – Policy Framework Review Webinar
- The workgroup will continue to collaborate and refine the policy framework in the upcoming months using webinar technology.
- The policy will guide activities related to Native American Languages. These activities will be a part of the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Sovereignty in Indian Education.

# Shaping a Policy Framework

- Discussion among Educators, Administrators and Tribal Education Program Managers about Native Language instruction in schools and building fluency led to the following themes:
  - ✓ Standards, Curriculum and Assessment
  - ✓ Methodological Structure – Immersion, Dual Language, etc.
  - ✓ Partnerships with Tribal Colleges and Universities
  - ✓ Partnerships with Tribal Education Departments
  - ✓ Teacher Certification and Recruitment
  - ✓ Active Support from Administrators and School Boards

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) supports, promotes, and requires the teaching of native languages, with an emphasis on building fluency, in BIE-operated schools. The BIE recognizes that the traditional languages of Native American students are an integral part of their cultures and identities and has been shown to play a role in their academic progress. The desired outcome of this policy is to increase the success, performance, and educational opportunities of Native American students by integrating Native American languages into daily instruction and creating fluent speakers.

# Native Languages Policy Framework

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all BIE-operated school administrators, personnel, faculty and staff.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 3. Policy – A. Establishment of Native Language Instruction

- a. BIE personnel at BIE-operated schools will recognize, honor and utilize the local tribe's native language standards, curriculum, scope and sequence, and assessment, if such documents have been developed.
  
- b. BIE-operated schools may determine and establish a methodology to address native language instruction, e.g., immersion program.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 3. Policy – B. Program Implementation

- a. BIE-operated schools will integrate native language instruction into instructional time at every grade level on a daily basis.
- b. BIE will encourage BIE-operated schools to use a portion of professional development funds for native language and culture initiatives at BIE-operated schools.
- c. BIE will encourage Family and Child Education (FACE)/pre-school programs affiliated with BIE-operated schools to enhance their current curricula with native language programs.
- d. BIE will support Haskell Indian Nations University in the development of a native language component for the early childhood education program.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 3. Policy – B. Program Implementation Continued...

- e. BIE will support Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in the development of a native language component for their Head Start education certification.
- f. BIE will strengthen recruitment efforts for hard to fill positions for native language teachers at BIE-operated schools.
- g. BIE will offer technical assistance to schools with native language programs, including immersion and/or those who are seeking to strengthen native language instruction.
- h. BIE will offer support for the development of instructional resources related to Native American Language programs.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 3. Policy - C. Partnerships

- a. BIE will develop partnerships with Tribal colleges and local universities to promote teacher education programs for student teaching with the purpose of improving the quality of Native Language instruction at BIE-operated schools.
  
- b. BIE will work with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) to provide technical assistance to Tribal colleges and universities to apply for federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education to support professional development for native language teachers.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 3. Policy - D. Collaboration with Tribally Controlled Schools

- a. BIE will expand the purpose of the Sovereignty in Indian Education Initiative to include all tribal education agencies and tribes that oversee less than three schools.
- b. BIE will help facilitate collaborations between the state and tribe for native language teacher certification.

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 4. Authorities/References

- A. Public Law 101-477 – Title I - Native American Languages Act
- B. Executive Order No 13592
- C. NIEA Resolution 2013-03
- D. BIE Blueprint for Reform

# Native Language Policy Framework

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

*Director.* The Director will advocate and promote native language fluency for all BIE students and strengthen partnerships between the BIE, Tribal Education Departments, and post-secondary institutions.

*Associate Deputy Directors.* The Associate Deputy Directors will increase communication and collaboration with Tribal Education Departments.

*Education Line Officers.* The Education Line Officer will increase communication and collaboration with Tribal Education Departments.

*Principals.* Principals will follow BIE directives ensuring that native language is taught at every grade level on a daily basis.

*Presidents, Post-Secondary Education Institutions.* The Presidents will develop a native language component for its early childhood education program and collaborate with BIE personnel in the implementation of the Policy.

*Faculty and Staff.* BIE-Operated school personnel will align policies with directives and communicate with school boards.

# Comments

- Please submit comments regarding the BIE Native American Languages Policy Framework via e-mail to [Maureen.Lesky@bie.edu](mailto:Maureen.Lesky@bie.edu) by Friday, April 17, 2015.

Thank you for your participation.