

Planning for education sovereignty:

TEA guidance for developing tribal education blueprints

May 2021

In the 2021 legislative session, the Tribal Education Alliance in partnership with Rep. Derrick Lente secured \$10,615,700 in education program funding for Tribes (in Senate Bill 377). This includes \$4.5m for tribal education departments “to develop and implement education blueprints and governance structures, engage in collaborations with school districts and plan and deliver community-based education programs and social support services for Native American students.”

To assist in the development of education blueprints, TEA offers a planning template to assist tribal education directors.

Planning category	Sample questions to guide planning	Process: community participation Y/N?
Vision	What should be the purpose of education? What is our vision of an educated tribal member? What values, knowledge, and practices should be at the core of education? How is education linked to tribal self-determination? What should tribal students learn? What should be the range of educational methods? Where should education take place? How should tribal education be connected to public education? Who should teach and what capabilities should they have?	Yes
Goals	To realize our vision, what should be our short, medium and long-term goals? What strategic education goals and plans do we currently have in place and how can we update and expand these to build out our tribal education system? How can we best engage our communities in the formulation of vision and goals?	Yes
Monitoring & Evaluation	How do we currently measure progress? What (and whose) values do these measurements reflect? How can we best incorporate indigenous measurement and evaluation tools?	No
Governance, legal and policy framework	Who should make what decisions about the education of tribal members? What decision-making and oversight bodies do we need to have in place? How do we engage tribal members in governance?	No

	<p>Do we have an adequate education code in place or should we update or expand our code?</p> <p>What policies do we need to have in place to guide an integrated, sequential approach to the education of tribal members?</p> <p>Who can we turn to for guidance and advice in developing our policies and systems?</p>	
Collaboration with public schools	<p>What do we need to put in place to collaborate more effectively with public schools?</p> <p>What are our strategies for addressing systemic racism?</p> <p>What would be an ideal format for student needs assessments?</p> <p>What type of agreements would give us a say over school budgeting and programming decisions?</p>	No
Infrastructure	<p>What facilities do we have, what do we need?</p> <p>What is the greatest need?</p> <p>How should facilities be connected within our communities and with public schools?</p> <p>What is the role of our tribal library and how can we expand that role?</p>	Yes
Programs and Services	<p>What are tribal students' unmet needs?</p> <p>What are our community's unmet needs?</p> <p>What is best provided in public schools, what is best provided in our communities?</p> <p>What is currently missing in public schools?</p> <p>What programs and services should we focus on?</p> <p>What has been popular with students and their families?</p> <p>What programs and services can be implemented within tribal libraries?</p> <p>What is ready to be implemented or expanded by the end of FY22 or FY23?</p>	Yes
Resources	<p>What capacity would our education department need to implement a comprehensive education plan?</p> <p>What staffing would the department need, and what staffing would specific programs and services need?</p> <p>What should be included in a 5 year program and capital budget, assuming availability of not only grants and tribal funds but also state funds?</p>	No