

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 5433

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Requiring Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Rolfes, Roach, Fain, Hasegawa, Dammeier, McCoy, Nelson, Frockt, McAuliffe, Rivers, Kohl-Welles, Chase, Jayapal, Conway and Habib).

**Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education**  
**House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs**

**Background:** There are 29 federally recognized Indian tribes whose reservations are located in Washington. In a 2012 report, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reported that 264 school districts in 2010 had between 1 and 1095 Native American or Alaskan Native students attending their schools.

In 2005 the Legislature encouraged OSPI to help school districts identify federally recognized Indian tribes within or near school districts and school districts were encouraged to do the following:

- incorporate curricula about tribal history, culture, and government of the nearest federally recognized tribe and work with tribes to develop such materials;
- collaborate with tribes to create materials, programs, and cultural exchanges; and
- collaborate with OSPI on curricular areas of tribal government and history that are statewide in nature.

In 2011 the Legislature directed OSPI to create the Office of Native Education (ONE). ONE was tasked with several duties including facilitating the development and implementation of curricula and instructional materials regarding native languages, culture and history, and the concept of tribal sovereignty. ONE posts curriculum and other resources for elementary, middle, and high schools on its website.

Washington's high school graduation requirements include a minimum of one-half credit of Course work in Washington State history and government. Courses designed to meet this requirement are encouraged to include information on the culture, history, and government of Indian tribes in Washington.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary:** The legislative direction encouraging OSPI and school districts to collaborate and take certain actions to develop and incorporate curricula about tribes is changed to require such collaboration and actions. OSPI must help school districts identify federally recognized Indian tribes within or near school districts, and school districts must do the following:

- when reviewing or adopting social studies curriculum, incorporate curricula about tribal history, culture, and government of the nearest federally recognized tribe and work with tribes to develop such materials;
- collaborate with tribes to create materials, programs, and cultural exchanges; and
- collaborate with OSPI on curricular areas of tribal government and history that are statewide in nature.

School districts must meet the requirements of collaboration and incorporation about tribal history, culture, and government by using the curriculum developed and made available free of charge by OSPI, but they may modify the curriculum in order to incorporate elements that have a regional focus or in order to incorporate the curriculum into existing curricular materials.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	42	7
House	76	22

**Effective:** July 24, 2015