
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5570

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Wellman, Hasegawa, Nobles, Riccelli, Stanford, Valdez, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting public school instruction in tribal
2 sovereignty and federally recognized Indian tribes; amending RCW
3 28A.300.105 and 28A.320.170; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing expiration dates.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.105 and 2011 c 270 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) To the extent funds are available, an Indian education
9 division, to be known as the office of Native education, is created
10 within the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The
11 superintendent shall appoint an individual to be responsible for the
12 office of Native education.

13 (2) To the extent state funds are available, with additional
14 support of federal and local funds where authorized by law, the
15 office of Native education shall:

16 (a) Provide assistance to school districts in meeting the
17 educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students;

18 (b) Facilitate the development and implementation of curricula
19 and instructional materials in native languages, culture and history,
20 and the concept of tribal sovereignty pursuant to RCW 28A.320.170;

1 (c) Provide assistance to districts in the acquisition of funding
2 to develop curricula and instructional materials in conjunction with
3 native language practitioners and tribal elders;

4 (d) Coordinate technical assistance for public schools that serve
5 American Indian and Alaska Native students;

6 (e) Seek funds to develop, in conjunction with the Washington
7 state native American education advisory committee, and implement the
8 following support services for the purposes of both increasing the
9 number of American Indian and Alaska Native teachers and principals
10 and providing continued professional development for educational
11 assistants, teachers, and principals serving American Indian and
12 Alaska Native students:

13 (i) Recruitment and retention;

14 (ii) Academic transition programs;

15 (iii) Academic financial support;

16 (iv) Teacher preparation;

17 (v) Teacher induction; and

18 (vi) Professional development;

19 (f) Facilitate the inclusion of native language programs in
20 school districts' curricula;

21 (g) Work with all relevant agencies and committees to highlight
22 the need for accurate, useful data that is appropriately
23 disaggregated to provide a more accurate picture regarding American
24 Indian and Alaska Native students; and

25 (h) Report to the governor, the legislature, and the governor's
26 office of Indian affairs on an annual basis (~~(, beginning in December~~
27 ~~2012,)~~) regarding the state of Indian education and the
28 implementation of all state laws regarding Indian education,
29 specifically noting system successes and accomplishments,
30 deficiencies, and needs. The reports issued in 2026 through 2029,
31 must also include: Information about consultations and collaborations
32 between school districts and federally recognized Indian tribes under
33 RCW 28A.320.170, including tribal perspectives on the implementation
34 of the required curriculum; and recommendations for promoting tribal
35 consultation efforts with school districts.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.170 and 2024 c 200 s 2 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 (1)(a) Beginning July 24, 2015, when a school district board of
39 directors reviews or adopts its social studies curriculum, it shall

1 incorporate curricula about the history, culture, and government of
2 the nearest federally recognized Indian tribe or tribes, so that
3 students learn about the unique heritage and experience of their
4 closest neighbors. School districts must incorporate the curricular
5 requirements of this section no later than September 1, 2026.

6 (b) School districts shall meet the requirements of this section
7 by using the John McCoy (lulilaš) since time immemorial curriculum
8 developed and made available free of charge by the office of the
9 superintendent of public instruction and may modify that curriculum
10 in order to incorporate elements that have a regionally specific
11 focus or to incorporate the curriculum into existing curricular
12 materials.

13 (2) As ~~((they))~~ school districts conduct regularly scheduled
14 reviews and revisions of their social studies and history curricula,
15 ~~((school districts))~~ they shall consult and collaborate with any
16 federally recognized Indian tribe within their district, and with
17 neighboring Indian tribes, including federally recognized Indian
18 tribes whose traditional lands and territories included parts of
19 Washington, but that now reside in Oregon, Idaho, and British
20 Columbia, to incorporate expanded and improved curricular materials
21 about Indian tribes, and to create programs of classroom and
22 community cultural exchanges.

23 (3) (a) School districts shall collaborate with the office of
24 Native education created in RCW 28A.300.105 within the office of the
25 superintendent of public instruction and the office of the
26 superintendent of public instruction on curricular areas regarding
27 tribal government and history that are statewide in nature, such as
28 the concept of tribal sovereignty and the history of federal policy
29 towards federally recognized Indian tribes. ~~((The program of Indian~~
30 ~~education within the office of the superintendent of public~~
31 ~~instruction shall help local school districts identify federally~~
32 ~~recognized Indian tribes whose reservations are in whole or in part~~
33 ~~within the boundaries of the district and/or those that are nearest~~
34 ~~to the school district))~~

35 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction,
36 through the office of Native education, shall:

37 (i) Assist local school districts to identify federally
38 recognized Indian tribes whose reservations are in whole or in part
39 within the boundaries of the district and those that are nearest to
40 the school district, including federally recognized Indian tribes

1 whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington,
2 but that now reside in Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia; and
3 (ii) Collaborate with tribes that may have unique consultation
4 challenges under this section, such as consulting with a large number
5 of school districts or with school districts that have large student
6 enrollments.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.305
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the state board of
10 education, in coordination with the office of Native education
11 created in RCW 28A.300.105 within the office of the superintendent of
12 public instruction, shall implement a system of annual monitoring and
13 evaluations of school district compliance with RCW 28A.320.170. The
14 monitoring and evaluations, which may be conducted concurrently with
15 other oversight and monitoring conducted by the state board of
16 education, must include collected information for each school
17 district about:

- 18 (1) Collaborations with federally recognized Indian tribes;
- 19 (2) The grade levels in which the curriculum is taught;
- 20 (3) The courses for which credit may be awarded and the number of
21 students enrolled in, and having received credit for, those courses
22 during the preceding school year;
- 23 (4) Summaries of the curriculum implementation process; and
- 24 (5) The availability and implementation of applicable
25 professional development.
- 26 (6) Beginning in 2027 and concluding in 2029, the state board of
27 education, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, shall annually report to
28 the education committees of the legislature that summarizes school
29 district compliance with RCW 28A.320.170. The reports required by
30 this subsection may be incorporated within other oversight and
31 monitoring reports produced by the state board of education.
- 32 (7) This section expires September 1, 2029.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) By September 1, 2026, the office of
34 the superintendent of public instruction, in conjunction with the
35 office of Native education created in RCW 28A.300.105 within the
36 office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall report to
37 the education committees of the legislature concerning
38 recommendations for:

1 (a) Compensating federally recognized Indian tribes, including
2 federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional lands and
3 territories included parts of Washington, but that now reside in
4 Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia, who provide expertise,
5 consultation, or collaboration pursuant to RCW 28A.320.170;

6 (b) Retroactively compensating federally recognized Indian
7 tribes, including federally recognized Indian tribes whose
8 traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington, but
9 that now reside in Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia, who have
10 previously provided expertise, consultation, or collaboration
11 pursuant to RCW 28A.320.170; and

12 (c) Evaluation and accountability metrics for the implementation
13 of the curriculum and government-to-government consultation described
14 in RCW 28A.320.170.

15 (2) This section expires August 1, 2027.

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