
HOUSE BILL 1479

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Lekanoff, Berry, Doglio, Davis, Ramel, Nance, Fosse, Salahuddin, Scott, and Pollet; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/21/25. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a state matching grant to support
2 American Indian and Alaska Native students; adding new sections to
3 chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the profound
6 importance of preserving and nurturing the cultural heritage,
7 traditions, and languages of American Indian and Alaska Native
8 students. It is the intent of this act to support educational
9 opportunities that affirm the identity, history, and contributions of
10 American Indian and Alaska Native communities while fostering
11 academic achievement.

12 The legislature acknowledges that it has intended to promote the
13 full success of the centennial accord, signed by state and tribal
14 government leaders in 1989, and the subsequent millennial accord in
15 1999. The legislature further recognizes that American Indian and
16 Alaska Native students thrive in educational environments that honor
17 their cultural heritage and provide meaningful connections to their
18 land, language, and traditions. These connections are vital to
19 building resilience, fostering a sense of belonging, and ensuring the
20 success of future generations.

1 The legislature further recognizes that American Indian and
2 Alaska Native students have historically been misidentified and
3 underidentified as a result of federal policies that fail to count
4 American Indian and Alaska Native students who have more than one
5 racial identity. This underidentification is persistent in
6 educational systems for support services, academic opportunities, and
7 cultural programs, and stems from a complex history that includes the
8 forced removal of indigenous cultures, languages, and identities
9 through policies and practices that sought to assimilate Native
10 peoples.

11 Therefore, the legislature intends to enact a state grant program
12 to match the federal investment through the Title VI, Part A, Subpart
13 1 grant, which provides critical funding to school districts to meet
14 the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of American
15 Indian and Alaska Native students. This grant program aims to empower
16 American Indian and Alaska Native students by supporting culturally
17 relevant programming, enhancing access to resources, and
18 strengthening partnerships between schools and tribal communities.

19 Through this act, the legislature reaffirms its commitment to
20 addressing educational inequities and honoring the sovereignty,
21 identity, and future of American Indian and Alaska Native people in
22 Washington state.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The office of native education created in RCW 28A.300.105
26 shall administer a state matching grant program to support school
27 districts and state-tribal education compact schools established
28 under chapter 28A.715 RCW.

29 (a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
30 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
31 instruction shall award state grants to school districts and state-
32 tribal education compact schools that were eligible for and received
33 funding from the federal Indian education formula grant under Title
34 VI, Part A of the every student succeeds act (P.L. 114-95), in the
35 prior school year.

36 (b) To receive a state grant, an eligible school district or
37 state-tribal education compact school must submit a strategic plan to
38 the office of native education for meeting the specific needs of

1 American Indian and Alaska Native students. Plans must include, at
2 minimum:

3 (i) Key goals, measures, and outcomes that the funding will
4 support; and

5 (ii) Data, either qualitative or quantitative, on the above
6 goals, measures, and outcomes.

7 (c) If a school district receives a combined \$40,000 or greater
8 from the state grant outlined above and the federal Indian education
9 formula grant, it must engage in tribal consultation as required
10 under Title VI of the federal every student succeeds act (P.L.
11 114-95, Title 20 U.S.C. Sec. 10001 et seq., Title 20 U.S.C. 6301 et
12 seq.). Tribal consultation must include uses of funds from both the
13 federal Indian education formula grant and the state grant.

14 (d) State grant recipients must engage in meaningful parental
15 consultation, in line with requirements under the federal Indian
16 education formula grant.

17 (e) State grant recipients must participate in the office of the
18 superintendent of public instruction professional learning
19 communities organized by the superintendent of public instruction.

20 (2) State grant awards must be based on the latest published
21 grant awards for the federal Indian education formula grant under
22 Title VI, Part A of the every student succeeds act (P.L. 114-95).

23 (3) State grant funds under this section may be used to support
24 the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students and may
25 enhance activities under federal grants. Objectives of the state
26 grant include, but are not limited to:

27 (a) Increasing knowledge of cultural identity and awareness,
28 including traditional ecological knowledge;

29 (b) Family engagement and intergenerational knowledge sharing;

30 (c) Increasing academic achievement;

31 (d) Improving school attendance; and

32 (e) Enhancing student and staff engagement.

33 (4) To assist school districts and state-tribal education compact
34 schools accessing federal funding, the superintendent of public
35 instruction shall support the application of the federal Indian
36 education formula grant under Title VI, Part A of the every student
37 succeeds act (P.L. 114-95) through technical assistance and guidance.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
39 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Beginning June 30, 2026, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
2 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall annually
3 report to the appropriate committees of the legislature summarizing
4 the state grants awarded under section 2 of this act.

5 (2) This report must include, at minimum:

6 (a) Which school districts and state-tribal education compact
7 schools received a state matching grant;

8 (b) A summary of state grant uses, activities, and outcomes,
9 including information on data that was submitted to the office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction by state grant recipients in
11 their strategic plan; and

12 (c) If applicable, recommendations for state grant adjustments
13 regarding eligibility or funding.

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