

Every Student Succeeds Act Primer: Alaska Native Education



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, the role of language and culture is recognized as pathway to educational success and long-term well-being for Alaska Native students.

Increased Participation of Alaska Natives

The Alaska Native education program in ESSA increases the opportunities for leadership and participation by Alaska Natives in the planning and management of the grant program. Eligible entities must now either have direct experience working with Alaska Native students or work in partnership with or be sanctioned by an Alaska Native organization or tribe.

Mandatory Activities

Two activities have become mandatory under the ESSA:

- The development and implementation of plans, methods, strategies, and activities to improve the educational outcomes of Alaska Natives.
- The collection of data to assist in the evaluation of the programs carried out under this grant.

Expansion on Permissible Activities

The ESSA expands the permissible activity opportunities under the grant. This extension allows for more focused attention to the unique challenges facing Alaska Native students. New activities include:

- Specific focus on increasing graduation rates.
- Enrichment programs in science, technology, engineering, and math.
- Increased opportunities to integrate language and culture.
- Instruction in youth leadership.
- Preparation for postsecondary education.

For additional fact sheets about ESSA and Native communities, visit <http://niea.org/>.

The **National Indian Education Association (NIEA)** advances comprehensive educational opportunities for all Native students. Serving as the critical link between Native communities and the diverse array of institutions that serve our students, NIEA holds all accountable for improving achievement. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and education, NIEA supports Native students and their communities to succeed. **NIEA.org**

