

Every Student Succeeds Act Primer: STEP and Cooperative Agreements



Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, states are authorized to collaborate with tribes in order to meet the educational needs of Native students.

State Tribal Education Partnership

The ESSA promotes tribal self-determination in the education of Native students through authorizing coordination and collaboration of tribal education agencies (TEAs) with state education agencies (SEA) to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of Indian students.

Develop a Tribal Education Agency: ESSA provides a one time, one year funding opportunity for tribes to plan and develop a TEA.

Operate Title Programs: Under the ESSA, TEAs can directly administer all formula grant programs.

Activities can include:

- Building the capacity of the TEA to administer and coordinate education programs.

- Receiving training and support from the SEA and local education agency (LEA), in areas such as data collection and analysis, grants management and monitoring, and fiscal accountability.
- Training and supporting the SEA and LEA in areas related to tribal history, language, or culture.

Restrictions: TEAs must have written agreement with the coordinating SEA and/or LEA, within the territorial jurisdiction, in order to apply for this program.

Cooperative Agreements

Under the ESSA, states must coordinate efforts with tribes in order to better support Native students, exclusively within Title VI. The guidelines for the Cooperative Agreements include:

- LEAs may enter into cooperative agreements with an Indian tribe that represents not less than 25 percent of the eligible Indian children served by the LEA.



- If an LEA that is eligible to apply for a grant under Title VI, but fails to establish a committee for such a grant, eligible entities that can apply for the same funding include:

- Indian tribe
- Indian organization
- Indian community-based organization
- Consortium of entities listed above

Restrictions: Each of the eligible entities listed above must represent more than one-half of the eligible Indian children who are served by the respective LEA applying for the grant.

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**

