

Since Time Immemorial

Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State Curriculum

•Why teach about tribal sovereignty in public schools? The answer is twofold:

- Tribal: Federally recognized tribes signed treaties guaranteeing education. This obligation has not been fulfilled. 90% of Tribal students attend public schools.¹
- Non-tribal: A recent study² on all 50 states found that:
 - 27 states do not teach about Native Americans at all.
 - Of the remaining that do, 87% teach about Native Americans from a pre-1900 context.

Relationship building in Washington State:

The 1989 Centennial Accord and the 1999 Millennium Agreement set standards between Washington State and tribes.

Legislative building in Washington State:

In 2005, HB1495 was passed 'encouraging' the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government. In 2015 SSB 5433 modified 'encouraged' with 'required.' In 2018, SB 5028 passed requiring STI be integrated into all teacher preparation programs.

•What is *Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State*³? A curriculum that is:

- Free and web-based
<http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/TribalSovereignty/>
- Tribally vetted
- Aligned with state Social Studies, ELA, ESE and SEL standards
- Uses three pedagogical approaches:
 - Inquiry based: Asks five essential questions to begin understanding tribal perspective.
 - Place based: Centering the perspective and context of tribal ways of knowing.
 - Integrated: Allows flexibility in how teachers integrate lessons into existing curriculum throughout the year.

•What is the future of *STI*?

- Stronger relations between the state, tribes, and school districts.
- Curriculum continues to be developed including tribally-specific curriculum.
- Implementation models and resources continue to be developed.

Renewing relations:

In order for *STI* to attain success, there must be strong relations between the state, tribes, and school districts that are timely, meaningful, and sustainable.

Implementing *Since Time Immemorial*:

Training for *STI* has doubled in size and frequency; more dynamic with tribes. Meaningful partnerships forming with Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Ed.

•Dispelling 'myths' about the implementation of *Since Time Immemorial (STI)*:

- True or false: *STI* is for tribal students only?
- False:** *STI* is required for all students of Washington State.
- True or false: *STI* should be implemented by Title VI—Indian Education only?
- False:** *STI* implementation is best implemented by all levels of administration, including collaboration with Title VI educators, and by being teacher driven.

Office of Native Education

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

<http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/>

¹<http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/education-health-human-services/education>

²<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00933104.2014.999849>

³<http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/TribalSovereignty/>