

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, HB 1495 was passed 'encouraging' the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government. In 2015, SSB 5433 modified 'encouraged' with 'required'.

•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 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

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/native-education>

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<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/time-immemorial-tribal-sovereignty-washington-state>