

# *SSB 5252 (School Consultation/Tribes)*

## **Statutory and/or Budget Language**

\$294,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$294,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 provided solely for implementation of chapter 9, Laws of 2022 (school consultation/tribes).

## **Purpose**

Starting from September 1, 2024, individuals serving as school board members, superintendents, and any other personnel within school districts mandated to engage in Tribal consultation under Title VI of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), also known as Public Law 114-95, Sections 20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq. and 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., are required to complete and obtain certification for the 3-hour Strengthening Tribal Consultation (STC) training. This training will primarily focus on the following aspects:

- Identification of Native Students;
- Sharing of Data;
- Implementation of Tribal history, culture, and government, spanning from time immemorial.

The STC training outlines a specific partnership with Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) to identify best practices and gather feedback from Tribes and LEAs which have been labelled WSSDA Tribal Convening.

In addition, this Proviso also covers the mandated Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training for all school administrators upon recertification initiating July 1, 2023. The five hours of subject matter content should be:

- Introduction to Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State
- Boarding Schools and Historical Trauma
- Identifying Native Students in Public Schools
- Agents of Change: School Leadership Behaviors and Dispositions
- Creation of Government-to-Government Systems

## **Description of Services Provided**

Initial services included developing curriculum and training of the three-hour training. Continued services are the administration, organization and delivery of training across the state to include travel, materials and supplies to provide direct and hybrid training that sponsored nine (9) in-person Strengthening Tribal Consultation (STC) trainings across the state in this proviso year. With the WSSDA partnership, there have been three (3) Tribal Convenings each



year, each in Spokane, Yakama, and Swinomish Tribal areas. This year, the Convenings included official STC Trainings as part of the event differing from the first year which gathered more qualitative data regarding Tribal Consultation. WSSDA will provide a report of their findings separately.

The Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training curriculum was vetted and approved in a joint meeting with Tribal Leaders Congress and Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs on February 10, 2023. Training started August 8, 2023, at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. Subsequent training took place at Central Washington University (hybrid), Spokane Convention center (hybrid), Muckleshoot Events Center (hybrid) and in Partnership with Association of Washington School Principals Annual Conference in Spokane with over 1,539 individual registrations for the synchronous, 961 registrations for the asynchronous modules, and 1,882 Administrators recertified. Asynchronous modules were created from videos of live training with embedded quizzes to check for knowledge and to provide another entry point to complete the training.

## Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Every Student Succeeds Act Tribal Consultation is required by all districts receiving Title VI Indian Education Grant Awards of more than \$40,000 and/or that have a Native American student population of over 50% (Every Student Succeeds Act section 1111(a)(1)(A)). Tribal consultation is required for all Title programs covered by ESSA, not solely Title VI—Indian Education. These districts are required by State mandates for all their directors and superintendents to complete the Strengthening Tribal Consultation Training upon director seating every three (3) years.

All school administrators in Washington state are required to take the Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training upon recertification every five (5) years.

## Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

<b>Number of School Districts</b>	All
<b>Number of Schools</b>	All
<b>Number of Students</b>	All
<b>Number of Educators</b>	1,883 Recertified Administrators
<b>Other</b>	274 School Directors & Superintendents

## Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

## State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$294,000	\$263,077
2023	\$294,000	\$202,031

## Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	All
2023	11 Districts, 2 Tribes, 6 School Boards, 55 Superintendents, 55 District Employees, 22 Tribal Employees

## Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

None.

## Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

- Identified the need for online modules to provide an asynchronous option that administrators could access on their own time.
- Non-school related individuals registering for these trainings demonstrate the need for and interest in learning about Tribal Sovereignty and the Tribal Consultation process.
- Differing curriculum to meet the needs of Career and Technical Administrators was identified.
- Initial feedback data from the Administrators Government-to-Government (N=638):
  - 36% of individuals took the training in-person with 64 virtually.
  - 48% of individuals were Very Satisfied with the training and 43.6% Satisfied.
  - 44% Agree Strongly and 50% Agree with the amount of information presented.
  - 42% thought in-person mode of training is the most impactful with 41% having no preference and 14% preferring online.
  - For future trainings 24% wanted synchronous, 35% had no preference, and 41% preferred asynchronous.

## Major Challenges Faced by the Program

Personnel changes and the hiring of an administrative assistant has hindered the data keeping and expenditure of the budget.

In SB5252, recordkeeping of School Directors by both the Office of Native Education (ONE) and WSSDA is reliant on the districts to provide updates on resignations, removals, and newly appointed directors, which provides difficulty in maintaining accurate records for training and reporting purposes. ONE is streamlining the data process to be more efficient from the registration to the certificate awarding process; however, both agencies continue to rely on individual districts to provide current, accurate, and timely information.

Despite the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Bulletins and partnering with WSSDA to disseminate new STC training requirements to ESSA Tribal Consultation districts,

misunderstanding and confusion clouded districts' facilitation of the paperwork process in the first year of this training requirement. Along with that were some rulemakings that needed to address some unique issues such as director resignations and newly seated directors within 30 days of the deadline for on-time review of districts' grants.

Administrators' Government-to-Government trainings implementation has experienced challenges in the areas of timing, registration, and budget constraints. Timing, or the best time to provide training, was an issue for the first two years. What time of year works best for administrators to attend or attract the most participants has been experimental. Currently, OSPI's Certification Office moved up the paperwork submittal deadline for recertification from April to January resulting in an adjustment of number of trainings and dates to meet that deadline hampering the establishment of routine timeframes for this training.

For the asynchronous modules in Canvas, a new registration procedure with "coupons" or password allows only those administrators that require recertification to register for the course in pdEnroller. Last year, approximately 10–15% of those registered for the online course were not administrators or even school employees, creating monitoring and volume issues. While the interest from the public and other agencies is applaudable and demonstrated the interest in the subject matter, it unnecessarily increased the workload of the Tribal Consultation staff.

The need for multiple points of entry for this training required the development of the Canvas course. Fortunately, ONE was able to partner and secure funding for the five modules from Region 16 Comprehensive Center. However, another area of Tribal Economic Structures has been identified to make this training relevant to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Administrators. Additional funding will be required to make two new modules for the asynchronous Canvas course.

The use of subject matter experts also financially limits the number of training opportunities ONE can provide. To maintain the fidelity of the content, ONE maintains the same contractors that match the asynchronous modules which limits the number of trainings per year. More funding would allow for more training in various parts of the state.

## Future Opportunities

The WSSDA/ONE partnership is looking to expand and add an additional Tribal Convening sites in the next year to meet the geographic and increase Tribal representation. The STC training will be able to move to a predictable quarterly schedule now that 97% of required attendees have been trained.

Discussed earlier, CTE modules have been developed and vetted by the legislatively outlined procedure. We are looking to meet the need of both Tribes and districts to create opportunities for partnerships with their LEAs to access other sources of Perkins and general funding. These opportunities not only benefit Tribes but non-tribal members, as 80% of the workforce for Tribes is non-tribal. This addition to the curriculum has also allowed our program to create other

partnerships with Washington Association of Career and Technical Administrators, Washington Association of Career and Technical Educators, Career Connect Washington, Tribal Youth, and Economic development programs.

Tribes, per this legislation, reserve the right to create and administer their own specific Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships training. There have been inquiries from Tribes but none to date have acted upon this option. However, there has been interest by a couple LEAs to partner with their consultation Tribe to co-develop a training of which ONE would assist in facilitating and certifying that process.

## Other Relevant Information

It is important to know that funding is for two biennia and the requirement for Administrator recertification is every five (5) years leaving a gap in funding for one year with no administrators trained. Also, the typical length of service for a school director is three (3) years requiring a part two for all those directors with initial certification in the biennium resulting in a mismatch of funding to recertification years.

## Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

## Program Contact Information

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