

Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee Bylaws

Revised and Updated 9/11/2025 | Reviewed and Approved by WSNAEAC 1/7/2026 | Accepted final revision by WSNAEAC 3/30/2026

Section I—Title and Definition

The title of this committee shall be the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee or WSNAEAC. The term “Native American” has reference to all individuals defined as “Indian” by the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act Amendments of 1988.¹ The WSNAEAC is placed with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, hereafter shall be referred to as OSPI.

Section II—Mission and Goals

Mission

The mission of this committee is to promote and recognize tribal sovereignty, government to government relationships, leadership, and the unique principles and effective practices of Native American Education which helps to assure academic success and cultural integrity at the community, school, federal, state, and tribal level. The inherent role of tribal homelands, waterways, and active centered tribal voices are essential in providing a culture-based education guided by time-honored tribal sovereignty, treaties, executive orders, resolutions, and indigenous ways of knowing.

Goals

- A. Collaborate with OSPI on education issues: review, advise, exchange of consultation, and in acknowledgement of tribal sovereignty, work in partnership with OSPI to further the goals of Native American Education through collaboration on education issues.
- B. Make recommendations, provide guidance on Native American Education critical issues.
- C. Serve as advocates for programs serving the educational needs of Native students, including disproportionate number in foster care, special education, etc.
- D. Be a resource on effective practices such as consultation, “John McCoy (Iulilaš) Since Time Immemorial” Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum, collaborative data analysis, etc.

¹ Indian means an individual who is (1) a member of an Indian tribe or band, as membership is defined by the Indian tribe or band, including any tribe or band terminated since 1940, and any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides; (2) a descendant of a parent or grandparent who meets the requirements described in (1) of this definition; (3) considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose; (4) an Eskimo, Aleut, or other Alaska Native; or (5) a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect on October 19, 1994.



- E. Actively center input from Native Students, parents, grandparents, elders, and communities to guide WSNAEAC's work and effort.
- F. Include any new legislation updates and implementation of legislation.

Section III—Membership

Membership shall consist of 22 individuals. Membership shall be representative of the unique geography and diversity of the tribes rural and urban sectors of the State. The Federally recognized tribes and/or Indian organizations shall nominate:

Six (6) Tribal Representatives

Organized political/governing federally recognized tribes shall nominate six (6) individuals from within their membership:

- Three (3) Tribal East and three (3) Tribal West

Three (3) Urban Representatives

Organized urban Indian communities shall nominate three (3) individuals—such as First Nations, villages, etc.

Four (4) Elementary/Secondary Education Representatives

Organized Native American education groups (e.g., Title VI Indian Education Programs, etc.) shall nominate from within their group four (4) individuals:

- Two (2) Education East and two (2) Education West

Two (2) Parent/Grandparent/Guardian/Elder Representatives

Organized Native American parent committees representing elementary/secondary level education within public and tribal schools shall nominate two (2) individuals with each representative being the parent/grandparent/guardian/elder of at least one Native child in grades K–12:

- One (1) Representative East and one (1) Representative West

If nomination is not brought forward from within public and tribal schools, requests for nomination shall be made from federally recognized tribes and Indian organizations.

Two (2) Tribal Compact School Representatives

Tribal schools in current negotiated compacts with OSPI shall nominate two (2) individuals representing all compact schools.

Two (2) Higher Education/Tribal College Representatives

Higher Education/Tribal Colleges shall nominate two (2) individuals.

One (1) Pre-K/Early Learning Education Representative

If nomination is not brought forward from within public and tribal schools, requests for nomination shall be made from federally recognized tribes and Indian organizations.

Two (2) Statewide Education Organization Representatives

Organized statewide education organizations (e.g., WSSDA, WEA, AWSP, ESDs, etc.) shall nominate two (2) individuals.

Membership on the WSNAEAC will be by appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Vacancies will be filled from nominations received and reviewed by the Office of Native Education.

Membership on the advisory committee is underscored by service to the broader Indian community in support of the goals to enhance sovereign Indian nations, communities, and families in uplifting the vision of our ancestors, history, and culture.

Section IV—Removal or Resignation of Members

Termination of Membership

Failure on the part of any Committee member to attend two (2) consecutive Committee meetings without notification to the Chair and/or Executive Secretary of their inability to attend, will constitute resignation from the Advisory Committee. In the event of anticipated absences or an extreme emergency, a member must notify the Office of Native Education in writing.

Any advisory member who does not follow these bylaws will be subject to removal from the advisory committee.

Resignation

Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Section V—Officers

Officers shall consist of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs (1st Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair) to be elected by the body of duly selected active members. The ONE Executive Director/Executive Secretary is the Office of Native Education within OSPI.

Duty of Officers

- A. Chair shall preside over all meetings and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to such office.
 1. Chair will communicate and collaborate, plan and schedule annual meetings and agendas.
- B. 1st Vice-Chair shall assume duties of Chair in that officer's absence and shall assist Chair at their request.

- C. 2nd Vice-Chair shall assume duties of 1st Vice-Chair in their absence.
- D. ONE Executive Director/Executive Secretary:
 - 1. To maintain strong partnerships or “in the spirit of collaboration” the Office of Native Education shall keep, in a safe place, accurate records of all meetings and correspondence and make such records available upon request.
 - 2. The ONE Executive Director/Executive Secretary shall:
 - i. Keep and maintain up to date WSNAEAC meeting minutes (both regular and special) and promptly transmit true and correct copies of the minutes of such meetings to each of the members, to OSPI;
 - ii. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws;
 - iii. Be custodian of the Committee’s attendance and other records;
 - iv. Keep a current register of the addresses and telephone numbers of the members of the Committee;
 - v. In general, perform all duties incident to the Office of Executive Secretary.
 - 3. Disseminate information.
 - 4. Shall have responsibility to monitor financial activities of the Committee.

Section VI—Election of Officers

- A. The Chair shall be elected for a two (2) year term of office; the Vice-Chairs for a two (2) year term of office at the initial elections. Subsequent terms of office shall be for a two (2) year term. The election of officers will be during the first meeting of the start of the fiscal year (July 1).
- B. Majority of votes cast by those present shall be necessary to elect.
- C. Members shall have one (1) vote each.
- D. An officer’s term that is vacated prior to fulfillment will be filled by the Advisory Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting for the unexpired portion of that person’s term.

Section VII—Meetings

Meetings of the Advisory Committee

- A. General meetings shall be rotated by Eastern, Central, and Western regions with consideration of accessibility, health, weather, or extenuating circumstances. Special meetings may be called by the State Superintendent.
- B. The Advisory Committee shall meet approximately four (4) times per year, which will include two (2) in-person meetings, or at the call of the State Superintendent.
- C. Annually, meetings shall be scheduled on the calendar during the Spring meeting.
- D. Regular meetings must be preceded by a four-week notice.
- E. A designated staff member of the Office of Native Education shall serve as the Executive Secretary to take minutes of a regular meeting and distribute accordingly.

Meeting Procedure

The following order of business is established procedure for all meetings:

1. Call to order and Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of agenda
3. Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes
4. Unfinished business
5. New business
6. Adjournment

Conduct of Meetings

All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Meetings Open to the Public

All meetings of the Committee shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting in compliance with and under the conditions provided for in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 42.30.

Section VIII—Voting

Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote and may cast that vote on each matter before the committee. Motions are passed by a majority of WSNAEAC members present.

Section IX—Subcommittees and Special Committees

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, the first and second Vice-Chairs.
- B. The Executive Committee shall perform any task or duties as designated by a resolution of the full Committees.
- C. The Executive Committee may convene, as needed, or as requested by OSPI for emergency consultation.
- D. Advisory Committee members may establish and dissolve subcommittees and special committees as needed. The State Superintendent must approve the creation of any subcommittee which includes persons who are not members of the Advisory Committee.
- E. All committees shall make verbal and/or written reports.

Advisory committee members may enter into contracts or agreements with OSPI provided that the opportunity is made equally available to all advisory members and fully disclosed. If this condition is not met, no advisory member shall be eligible for appointment to any contract with OSPI that concerns, or is related to, the subject area or program under the Advisory Committee's authority.

Section X—Committee Expenses

Reimbursement shall be available to Advisory Committee members to cover meals and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of Committee business. Travel expenses (i.e., mileage, parking, ferry, and other allowable travel expenditures per OSPI fiscal policy) shall be reimbursed upon the committee member's submission of a travel claim. Airfare and lodging shall be booked and paid for by OSPI unless, in isolated cases, the committee member is required to book their own, in which case the member would then be reimbursed upon submission of an expense claim. Other expenditures required to conduct Committee business, such as meeting site rentals, clerical assistance, materials duplication, or other necessary expenses, shall be provided in accordance with fiscal authorization policies and procedures of OSPI.

Section XI—Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the Advisory Committee at any regular meeting. Such changes shall be presented to the State Superintendent for approval.