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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

September 9, 2026

(X) Action Required
Due date: September 18, 2026
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 031-26 OFFICE OF NATIVE EDUCATION/PATHWAY PREPARATION AND TITLE PROGRAMS

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Affirmation of Consultation with Tribal Representatives

CONTACT: Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
564-200-2619, maxine.alex@k12.wa.us

Jason Miller, Executive Director, Federal and State Supplemental Programs
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Some school districts receive federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under Section 8538 of ESSA, districts that meet certain requirements must consult with Tribes about issues that affect American Indian and Alaska Native students.

Affected districts must:

- Engage in timely, meaningful, and ongoing consultation with appropriate officials from Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations.
- Consult with Tribal officials before submitting required plans or applications.
- Hold consultation early enough to give Tribal officials a meaningful opportunity to provide input and recommendations that can help shape district plans and applications.

REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING

ESSA Tribal Consultation Criteria

A school district must participate in ESSA Tribal Consultation if it meets one or both of the following requirements for Fiscal Year 2026:

1. Fifty percent (50%) or more of the district's total student enrollment is identified as American Indian or Alaska Native ([AI/AN Maximum Identification](#)); and/or
2. The district received more than \$40,000 under Title VI, Part A, Subpart 1.

A complete list of [affected school districts for the 2026–27](#) school year is available on the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) Tribal Consultation](#) website.

Required Consultation Documentation

Each affected school district must:

- Complete the [Affirmation of Consultation with Tribal Representatives](#) form.
- Obtain the required signatures on the form to confirm that consultation occurred.
- Keep the completed form in district records.
- Upload the form with the General Assurances in the Education Grant Management System (EGMS).

Federal Title funds will not be released until one of the following occurs:

- The Office of Native Education verifies the OSPI Tribal Consultation Assurance form; or
- The district provides documentation showing attempts to consult with Tribal representatives, including evidence of scheduled future consultation meetings.

Deadline

The **Affirmation of Consultation with Tribal Representatives** form must be completed and uploaded with the General Assurances in EGMS no later than **September 18**.

District and Tribal Relationship Training

Senate Bill 5252 (2022) requires training to support district-Tribal relationships and strengthen Tribal consultation practices.

The **Strengthening Tribal Consultation Training** is available and required for school district leaders who participate in ESSA Tribal Consultation. Training schedules are posted on the [Tribal Consultation page](#) of the Office of Native Education website.

Required Training Documentation

All current School Directors and Superintendents in affected districts must complete the Strengthening Tribal Consultation Training.

Each affected school district must:

- Keep proof of completion in district records.
- Document completion using the [ESSA Documentation of Completion](#) form.
- Upload the completed form with the General Assurances in EGMS.

School Directors and Superintendents must renew the Strengthening Tribal Consultation Training every three (3) years.

Deadline

The **ESSA Documentation of Completion** form must be completed and uploaded in EGMS with the **Affirmation of Consultation with Tribal Representatives** form and the General Assurances no later than **September 18**.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Maxine Alex, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor, at 564-200-2619 or email maxine.alex@k12.wa.us. The OSPI [Telecommunication Relay Services](#) number is 711 or 1-800-833-6384.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Susan Lathrop
Chief Education Officer

Maxine Alex
Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor
Office of Native Education

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