

For Government Agencies

Policy Explainer: Resource Guide

This resource guide is designed to assist government agencies in effectively utilizing the insights presented in Policy Explainer: The Federal Trust Responsibility and Higher Education.

As key decision-makers in education policy, funding, and institutional accountability, government agencies play a crucial role in ensuring equitable learning environments for Tribal communities. The following recommendations provide essential legal context to support policies that promote educational equity for American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students.

Government Agencies Can:

- **Policy Development:** Reference key legal precedents and federal statutes to inform and support Tribal education policies at state and federal levels.
- **Funding & Compliance:** Ensure that education funding aligns with treaty obligations and the federal trust responsibility, helping Tribal institutions and Tribal students receive equitable support.
- **Institutional Accountability:** Monitor compliance of publicly funded institutions in upholding Tribal-focused academic programs and student services.
- **Legislative Reference:** Use the explainer to inform policies that distinguish Tribal education initiatives as a matter of federal trust responsibility rather than diversity programming.

Key Takeaways:



The federal government is legally required to support American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian education through funding, policy, and oversight.



Tribal education programs are based on political status, not race.



Government agencies must uphold these obligations, regardless of political shifts.

NOTE: Engaging with this resource is a step toward meaningful progress. This guide offers recommendations, not mandates. Government entities are encouraged to build on these insights, explore additional resources, and innovate to expand educational opportunities for Tribal communities.

Government Agencies

Entities that are encouraged to interact with this informational resources include:

- State Education Agencies
- Legislators
- Tribal Governments
- Tribal Education Departments
- Government staff (Governor's office, county leadership, etc.)

More Resources:

- [Tribal Consultation Best Practices](#)
Guidelines on meaningful engagement with Tribal Nations.
- [Key Federal Laws Impacting Indigenous Education](#)
ASU Law LibGuide on Indian Education provides resources, legal materials, and research guidance on federal, state, and tribal laws impacting Tribal education.
- [National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\) Tribal Governance & Education](#)
Policy updates and research related to Tribal education.
- [National Indian Education Association \(NIEA\) Policy & Advocacy](#)
Federal and state policy resources for Tribal education.
- [Tribal Nations & the United States](#)
A resource that explores how Tribes are an integral part of the United States' system of governments and their unique relationship with the federal government.