

# For Tribal Communities

## Policy Explainer: Resource Guide

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

As key advocates for educational equity, Tribal communities ensure education systems respect and integrate American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian knowledge, traditions, and priorities. The following recommendations provide essential legal context to support policies that uphold Tribal educational sovereignty and strengthen engagement with institutions and policymakers.

### Tribal Communities Can:

- **Understand Rights:** Use the explainer to gain clarity on the political status of Tribal Nations and the federal government's obligation to support Tribal education.
- **Share Educational Opportunities:** Elevate information about scholarships, degree programs, and student support services available to Tribal students.
- **Engage the Community:** Strengthen relationships with schools, colleges, and universities to ensure Tribal perspectives are included in educational decision-making.
- **Form Institutional Partnerships:** Collaborate with educational institutions to ensure policies and programs align with treaty obligations and Tribal priorities.

### Key Takeaways:



The U.S. government must fulfill its trust and treaty-based commitments to American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students by ensuring access to quality education - regardless of political shifts.



Tribal communities play a vital role in shaping education systems that respect and incorporate their knowledge, traditions, and priorities.



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

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

### Tribal Communities

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

- Local Community Leaders
- Families & Elders
- Cultural Organizations
- Community-based Organizations
- Native Youth Councils & Student Organizations

### More Resources:

- [Tribal Education Consultation Guidelines](#)  
Best practices for engaging with educational institutions and policymakers.
- [Scholarship and Grant Opportunities](#)  
Funding sources for American Indian students pursuing higher education.
- [American Indian Higher Education Consortium \(AIHEC\) Higher Education Resources](#)  
Information on advocacy for legislation and policy that supports Tribal higher education.
- [NIEA Student Advocacy & Community Engagement](#)  
Resources supporting American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian students and families.
- [Indigenous Student Support Programs](#)  
List of student services and cultural programs at various institutions.