

For Educators

Policy Explainer: Resource Guide

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

As key contributors to student success, educators foster inclusive learning environments that respect and integrate American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian perspectives. The following recommendations provide essential legal context to support policies that uphold Tribal educational sovereignty and promote culturally responsive teaching practices.

Educators Can:

- **Support Institutional Commitment:** Advocate for schools and universities to uphold their trust responsibilities through aligned policies and programs.
- **Integrate Tribal Perspectives:** Use legal frameworks to justify incorporating Tribal history, culture, and governance into curricula and policies.
- **Enhance Student Support:** Leverage Tribal student services and cultural programs to create inclusive learning environments.
- **Engage in Professional Development:** Utilize this resource to deepen understanding of Tribal education policies and their legal distinctions from DEI initiatives.

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.



Integrating Tribal history, culture, and governance into curricula fosters inclusive learning environments and strengthens educational equity.



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. Educators are encouraged to build on these insights, explore additional resources, and innovate to expand educational opportunities for Tribal students and their communities.

Educators

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

- Teachers, Faculty & Staff
- School Administrators
- Librarians
- School Board Officials
- Education Support Staff

More Resources:

- [National Indian Education Association \(NIEA\) Educator Resources](#)
Curriculum materials and best practices for teaching Indigenous students.
- [Student Support and Mentorship Programs](#)
Information on available services for Indigenous students.
- [Legal Foundations of American Indian Education](#)
ASU Law library guide provides an overview of key laws and policies shaping Tribal education.
- [Teaching Tips for Learning with Native American Students](#)
Best practices and evidence-based instructional strategies for educators serving Tribal students.
- [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.