Building on our past-
To ensure our future

The mission of the Office of Indian Education is to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives so that these students can achieve to the same challenging State performance standards as all students.

-USDOE-OIE

American Indian Education Program

Title V11
Project funded by United States Department of Education-Office of Indian Education
Website: www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/oie/index.html

Special thanks are extended to Nola Lodge, University of Utah Clinical Instructor for the Dept. of Education, Culture & Society, and the Director of the American Indian Resource Center for her contributions to the historical section of this brochure.

Additional Website Links:

Office of Indian Education: www.indianeducation.org
Journal of American Indian Education: http://jaie.asu.edu
Utah State Office of Education: www.usoe.k12.ut.us
USOE-Indian Education: www.schools.utah.gov/curr/indianed/

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Salt Lake City School District
440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 578-8472 or cell 209-7163
(801) 578-8599 Main District number

Indian Education Program

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Partners in Achievement

Office Number (801) 578-8472

Drawing by Rhonda Slowman, East HS
History of Indian Education

The beginnings of Indian Education began with colonization of the frontier. The federal government created “Indian Schools” as a way of dealing with the education of American Indians. In 1879 Carlisle Institute, the first federally created boarding school opened. Numerous off-reservation boarding schools were then opened. In the early 1930’s with John Collier as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Indian Education began to change. Several large off-reservation boarding schools were closed. There then began an emphasis on local day-schools on reservations. Beginning in the 1950’s, many American Indian families moved to urban areas and Indian students attended public schools. Consequently, public schools became a venue of serving a large number of Native students. Legislation in 1972 created the Indian Education Act as a result of American Indians actively promoting self-determination.

The federal government recognized that it had a special responsibility through historical treaty rights to ensure that educational programs for all American Indians and Alaska Native children be responsive to the needs, and under the direction of, Indian people themselves.

Therefore, the Office of Indian Education (OIE)) under the United States Department of Education was created to focus on the educational needs of American Indian students.

District Program

The purpose of the Salt Lake City School District-Indian Education Program is to support schools by assisting AI/AN students in meeting state academic standards. The program offers resources for culturally appropriate curriculum to teachers, and educational mentoring services and enrichment activities to students.

Eligibility

A 506 Eligibility form needs to be completed by a parent/guardian to acknowledge a student’s American Indian/Alaska Native descent. The federal form generates funds and certifies a student’s eligibility for program services/activities. (see sample below)

Project Priorities

Support programs are located at specific school sites and targeted grades. Particular attention is made to intervene on critical needs, as identified through district performance data analysis and advisory feedback from the parent committee. NOTE: The Parent Committee and the school district both review and approve the program plan and submit it to the USDOE-OIE for approval and funding. (The approved program must be supplemental in nature. That is, it should add to/or enhance existing School District services to its students.)

The program is focusing on three areas of concern:

1. Literacy (Primary Level)
2. Attendance (Secondary Level)
3. Cultural Enrichment

Although a school may not receive direct services there is an outreach effort, which is available to all schools.

Project Resources

The project has a variety of resources for students, parents and teachers, such as:

- Cultural Lending Library (books & visual aids)
- Tribal and or College Scholarship Information
- American Indian Social Studies Curriculum
- Beginning Navajo Language Course for high school students via Electronic High School
- Educational Enhancement Opportunities
- Local American Indian Service Organizations Listing
- Coordinating Classroom Cultural Presentations