

# **Montana Indian Education Association**

## **Resolutions 2012**

Montana Indian Education Conference  
Bozeman, Montana

Summary of Resolutions – Title and Action

## (Be it Resolved)

### Resolutions– State of Montana Policy, Programs, and Funding for K-Higher American Indian Education

#### **RESOLUTION 2012-01: The MIEA Supports Closing the Achievement Gap Which will Increase the High School Completion Rates for American Indian Students in Montana's K-12 Schools:**

The MIEA will advocate for new opportunities and change in the educational systems to close the K-12 Academic Achievement Gap for American Indian students and increase the high school completion rate of American Indian students to meet or exceed their non-Indian peer's rate of 85%. To accomplish this, MIEA asks the Governor, Montana Legislature, Tribal Councils and Tribal Education Departments, Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, BIE (Bureau of Indian Education), Montana School Board Association, Indian School Board Caucus, School Administrators of Montana, Montana Education Association, all schools in Montana, MACIE, other educational organizations, and the Montana Congressional Delegation to set this goal as an educational priority and as educational leaders, to advocate for policy and funding to support its achievement.

#### **RESOLUTION 2012-2 : The MIEA supports continued state funding for Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indians in Montana's K-12 Public Schools.**

The MIEA urges the Montana Legislature, the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education, Montana Education Association, Montana School Board Association, School Administrators of Montana, Indian School Board Caucus, Tribal Governments, and other educational advocates to support the continued funding of \$200.00 per American Indian Student for all K-12 Public Schools in Montana to be used for educational services designed to close the achievement gap for American Indian students.

#### **RESOLUTION 2012-03: The MIEA Supports Increasing the On-Going Funding for Indian Education for All for Montana's K-12 Schools in the 2013 legislative session.**

MIEA requests that the Governor's Office, State Legislature, Office of Public Instruction, MACIE, Board of Public Education, Montana Education Association, Montana School Board Association, School Administrators of Montana, Indian School Board Caucus, Montana's Tribal Leadership, and other education advocates to continue to support the funding of Indian Education for All and work to increase this funding in the 2013 Legislative Session beyond the \$20.40 per student to a minimum of \$40.00 per student.

#### **RESOLUTION 2012-04: The MIEA Supports Funding in the 2013 Legislative Session for Indian Education for All in the Units of the University System and adequate funding for the Office of the Minority Achievement Specialist.**

The MIEA urges the Montana Legislature, Governor, the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Higher Education to support adequate funding for the Montana University System for implementation of Indian Education for All in all Units of the University System and to provide an adequate budget and resources to allow the Office of the Minority Achievement in the Commissioner of Higher Education's Office to help meet the needs of strengthening Indian education (enrollment, support services, and graduation) in the University System.

#### **RESOLUTION 2012-05: The MIEA Supports the continuation of the \$10.0 Million in At Risk Funding in the 2013 legislative Session:**

The MIEA urges the Governor, the Montana Legislature, the Office of Public Instruction, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education, Montana Educational Association, Montana School Board Association, School

Administrators of Montana, Indian School Board Caucus, Tribal Governments, and other educational advocates to support continued funding the \$10.0 million per biennium in the 2013 Legislature for At Risk Students.

**Resolution 2012-06: The MIEA supports continued state funding in the 2013 Montana Legislature of Montana's Tribal Colleges for non-beneficiary students at an equitable level with ongoing funding for state two-year colleges students:**

The MIEA recognizes the Tribal Colleges as an integral part of state's higher education community and asks the Governor, Board of Regents, and State Legislature to continue to include on-going funding by the state of Montana for non-beneficiary students on an equitable level as the state two year colleges.

**RESOLUTION 2012-07: The MIEA Supports the Preservation and Revitalization of Montana Tribal Language and supports funding from Federal, State, and Tribal Resources.**

The MIEA will advocate for tribal language immersion programs for the preservation and revitalization of Montana Tribal Language and asks Montana's Governor, state legislature, state educational leadership, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education, tribal leadership, other educational organizations and help through policy development, advocacy within their leadership roles and supporting adequate funding from federal, state and tribal resources.

**RESOLUTION 2012 – 08: The MIEA Supports Graduation Matter and as advocates for American Indian students, MIEA encourages schools serving American Indian and Alaska Native students to to set high school graduation as a priority in their planning and budgeting.**

**RESOLUTION 2012-09: The MIEA supports revising the state law on the age students can leave the public schools from its current 16 to "up to age18" or high school graduation.**

**RESOLUTION 2012-10: The MIEA supports the Use of Funds Allocated by the State of Montana for the Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian Students be Used Specifically for These Intended Purposes with Accountability through local district budget code identification and ongoing Reports and to work with the Title VII Program within the school (if available) in developing plans and budgeting the Closing the Achievement Gap Funds for Indian students.**

The MIEA supports the use of Funds Allocated by the State of Montana for the Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian students be used specifically for these intended Purposes with Accountability through local district budget code identification and ongoing Reports and to work with the Title VII Program within the school (if available) in developing plans and budgeting the Closing the Achievement Gap Funds for Indian students to insure the most effective use of these funds and that these funds do not supplant existing programs and asks the Governor , the Montana School Board Association, the Office of Public Instruction, The Board of Public Education, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education, Montana's public schools, Montana Education Association, Montana School Board Association, School Administrators of Montana, Indian School Board Caucus and other appropriate educational organizations to advocate for this budget policy.

**RESOLUTION 2012-11 : The MIEA supports the Use of Funds Allocated by the State of Montana for At Risk students to be Used Specifically for These Intended Purposes with Accountability through budget code identification and ongoing Reports and to work with the Title VII Program within the school (if available) in developing plans and budgeting the At Risk funding.**The MIEA supports the use of funds allocated to schools for At Risk students, of whom many are American Indian students, to help increase student achievement through new programs or expanding existing successful programs and to work with existing Title VII programs (If available) in planning and budgeting these funds to insure that these funds do not supplant existing programs and asks the Governor, the Montana School Board Association, the Office of Public

Instruction, The Board of Public Education, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education, Montana's public schools, Montana Education Association, Montana School Board Association, School Administrators of Montana, Indian School Board Caucus and other appropriate educational organizations to advocate for this budget policy.

**RESOLUTION 2012-12 The MIEA Supports an Annual Report on the Status of Indian Education by MBPE and BOR:**

The MIEA asks the Montana Board of Public Education and the Montana Board of Regents to complete an annual report on the current status of American Indian education in the state's educational institutions. It is recommended that the K-12 report include reservation and urban achievement data, testing, special education data, graduation rate data, dropout rates, discipline reports including suspension and expulsion, staffing, as well as recommendations. And it is recommended the Higher Education Report to include enrollments, graduation rates, faculty (by ethnic status), and other data to show the achievement levels of American Indian students in all units of the University System.

**RESOLUTION 2012-14: The MIEA Supports Efforts to Improve Urban Indian Education in Montana.**

The MIEA supports improving the achievement of the 9,422 Indian students who make up 52.1% of all Indians (18,073 total enrolled in our K-12 Public Schools in Montana per 2010-2011 data) in our urban/off reservation communities and recommends that the Office of Public Instruction, Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE), school boards, tribal governments, and administrators in our urban communities develop policy and provide adequate and equitable resources for educational and supportive services to close the achievement gap, increase the graduation rate, provide for cultural instruction and resources, and decrease the disproportionate rate of suspensions and expulsions for American Indian students in our Montana Urban Communities.

**RESOLUTION 2012 -15 : The MIEA Supports the Urban Native Education Council (UNEC) in its efforts to improve Urban Indian Education at a national level.**

With over half of the American Indian population now living in urban/off reservation communities, the MIEA recognizes the importance for a national voice to provide advocacy for legislation, policy, and funding that will support American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled in urban communities in Montana and other states and supports the efforts of the Urban Native Education Council (UNEC) in its work to bring this voice to the national level and asks our Congressional Delegation, Montana Tribal Governments, and Montana Educational Leadership to support UNEC's positions including:

1. At present, continue Title VII Indian Education funding at the existing level for urban programs.
1. Initiate review of Title VII funding to provide equity in funding for eligible students.
2. Review JOM funding, unfreeze this funding and restore JOM funding to its original intention of providing educational services for off reservation Native Students.
3. The partnership between DOE and DOI to improve AI/AN education and resulting MOU that is outlined in the Executive Order shall be inclusive of Urban Native Education.
4. UNEC will be included in all future federal budget decisions impacted by the newly created Whitehouse Initiative on Indian Education.
5. All Title programs within the DOE's Elementary and Secondary Education Act shall support Urban Native Learners in public schools.
6. DOE properly trains and mandates LEA's, SEA's and school districts on how to access and utilize Title 1 funds in an appropriate manner for Native Students that is academically and culturally appropriate.
7. DOE properly trains and mandates LEA's, SEA's and school districts on how to access and utilize funds to build meaningful programs and professional development for Native Learners.
8. Change the way the Federal, State and LEA's account for American Indian/Alaska Native Students. The present reporting system shows an inaccurate accounting. A high percentage of students are not accounted for because of the multi-race, Hispanic or more than one race category. Please see attached document to

understand the dilemma facing our urban students in the public schools. The number of Native students is being under-reported at the federal level.

9. Title VII programs should be evaluated based on the number of children they serve, rather than the total of single-race Native identification. At present, some Title VII programs may serve 50% of the Native students in a district, but are measured against the ED Facts data for ALL Native Students enrolled in that district.
10. DOE shall create an Urban Native Education Policy Advisory Group for Native students residing in urban areas to address the issues facing Urban Native Learners
11. Direct the Secretary to collect data on the Native urban student as well as on the impacts of culturally based education and best practices for Urban Native Learners.

RESOLUTION 2012-16: The MIEA will advocate to insure that eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students are receiving Title VII Indian Education Funding in their respective schools in Montana.

The Montana Indian Education Association will advocate with Montana schools who are eligible, but do not apply for Title VII Indian Education through the Department of Education, to apply for and implement a Title VII Program within their respective schools to better serve the educational needs of their eligible Indian students and asks the Indian Education Office within the Office of Public Instruction and MACIE to also support this effort as well as the Montana School Board Association, School Administrators of Montana, and the Indian School Board Caucus in their work with LEA's.

RESOLUTION 2012-18: The MIEA thanks the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education for the inclusion of Indian Education for All content in the Language Arts and Math Common Core Standards and asks that this inclusion continue in the Social Studies and Science Common Core Standards:

MIEA recognizes the leadership of Montana in the inclusion of Indian Education for All in the recent adoption of the Common Core Standards in Language arts and Math and appreciates this stand in supporting our state's constitution as well as previous efforts for inclusion of IEFA in all standards. And, MIEA encourages that this leadership effort continue as new common core standards are developed for Social Studies and Science.

**RESOLUTION 2012-20: The MIEA supports efforts to create equity for American Indian Students identified for services in Special Education and supports efforts to insure equity for all American Indian students in discipline (Suspension and Expulsion):**

The MIEA supports efforts by the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education in their steps to research and study the inequities in the number of American Indians who are enrolled in Special Education Programs in our state's schools as well as the disproportionate number of American Indian students who are suspended or expelled from our schools and to develop policy recommendations for the Board of Public Education to reduce these disparities.

RESOLUTION 2012-21: The MIEA Supports Indian Hiring Preference Policy in Public Schools on Indian Reservations:

The MIEA supports and endorses an Indian hiring preference for the public schools located on reservations in Montana in both regular, part time employment, and any contracting and asks the Indian School Board Caucus, the Montana School Board Association, Montana Indian Impact Aid Schools, Tribal and State leadership, and other educational organizations to support this policy.

**RESOLUTION 2012-22: The MIEA Encourages Advocacy by the Indian School Board Caucus for Indian Education for All and Closing the Achievement Gap:**

The MIEA encourages the Indian School Board Caucus to advocate for Indian Education for All and Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian Students with the Montana School Board Association and other educational leadership and encourage training, policy development and adequate funding.

**RESOLUTION 2012-23: The MIEA Supports Graduating Students Wearing Items of Cultural Significance During Graduation Ceremonies:**

The MIEA supports the right of American Indian students to express cultural pride during graduation activities and opposes any efforts made by school jurisdictions that do not allow for Native students to dress in a manner reflective of Native tradition or culture.

**RESOLUTION 2012-24 The MIEA Supports the Inclusion of Indian Education for All in Early Childhood Programs in Montana:**

The MIEA encourages all Early Childhood Education Programs in Montana to insure that there are lessons and activities provided to learn about Montana's Indian people, their history, and their culture to support the spirit of Article X, 1 (2) in the Montana Constitution.

**RESOLUTION 2012-25: Oppose the Use of Indian Mascots in Schools**

MIEA opposes the use of Indian mascots for school athletics and activities and requests our educational institutions develop policies and guidelines that will eliminate the use of Indian people/tribes as mascots to promote athletics and school spirit.

**RESOLUTION 2012-26: The MIEA Supports Non-Partisan Political Participation for a Stronger Indian Voice:**

The MIEA supports (on a non-partisan basis) voter registration, voter education projects, and other strategies that strengthen the active participation of Indian people both as candidates and voters for school boards, tribal councils, state and federal representatives, and other political leadership arenas to give a stronger voice to the issues of American Indian education in Montana.

## **MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2011 FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND MONTANA’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

RESOLUTION 2012-27: The MIEA Supports the Reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act with changes that will better serve the educational needs of Montana Indian students.

The MIEA asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support and advocate for the following recommendations in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act:

1. Eliminating the achievement gap between American Indian students and their non-Indian peers must be a priority in ESEA for the various title programs under ESEA. .
2. Increasing the high school completion rate for American Indians to a minimum of 85% must also be a priority for the various title programs under ESEA.
3. MIEA recommends a national “Indian Education for All” program be added to the ESEA language that would provide for the inclusion of content on American Indians in curriculum in our K-12 schools.
1. MIEA recommends funding in ESEA for on-going research on best practices in all areas of Indian education.
2. MIEA encourages a new formula for calculation of funding to schools both on and off reservation to support an equitable funding level between schools who receive both Title VII Indian Education and Johnson O’Malley funding for eligible students (primarily reservation based schools) with the Formula to allow for a “weighted factor” in Title VII for those students who are not receiving only Title VII and not JOM funding which would support equity in funding for Indian students. The current system is not fair and equitable.
3. MIEA supports the funding request of \$10.0 million to support the development and/or capacity building of Tribal Education Departments.
4. Providing “visibility” on the achievement of American Indian students needs to continue in ESEA Assessment.
5. Include American Indian/Alaska Native students who are attending schools off reservation in programs.
6. Indian Preference in hires and contracts for schools who receive federal funding through ESEA be included.
7. Strengthen the provisions for these Indian Policies and Procedures in Impact Aid to allow for stronger language to support parental involvement and tribal involvement. Following are some recommendations:
  1. Waiver for control of Impact Aid should be completed annually and insure parent committee approval of waiver.
  2. Impact Aid should include language outlining Indian preference in hiring of employees and contracts that are supported by Impact Aid funds for schools receiving Impact aid on reservations.
  3. There should be regular meetings between the tribal government and school districts as well as with parents/guardians on the planning, development, and assessment of the LEA’s programs and activities funded by Impact Aid.
  4. The LEA should establish a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) similar to the Title VII Parent Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION 2012-28: MIEA supports NIEA’s Position to Elevate the Office of Indian Education within the Department of Education with a Direct Reporting role to the Office of the Secretary of Education with Management by an Assistant Secretary for Native Education.

The MIEA (in support of the National Indian Education’s position) asks the Montana Congressional Delegation and the leadership of the US Department of Education to elevate the Office of Indian Education within the Department of Education, with a direct reporting role to the Office of the Secretary of Education and with management by an Assistant Secretary for Native Education.

**RESOLUTION 2012-29: MIEA supports NIEA's position to provide full support for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) authorized by section 7141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).**

The MIEA supports the National Indian Education's position that President Obama and the Department of Education provide full support for the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) authorized by section 7141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support this position.

**Resolution 2012-31: The MIEA supports lifting the Freeze on JOM and Increasing Johnson O'Malley funding.**

1. Funding the Johnson O'Malley Program at a total of no less than \$24.3 million, which is only a \$300,000 increase in amount of funding for JOM in FY 1994.
2. NIEA urges that the JOM funding freeze be lifted and that other formula-driven and head count-based grants be analyzed to ensure that tribes are receiving funding for their student populations at a level that will provide access to a high quality education.

**RESOLUTION 2012-32: The MIEA Supports Funding for the Esther Martinez Native Language Act:**

The MIEA asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to advocate for the request of the National Indian Education Association for a \$10 Million Increase to \$59.0 million for FY 12 for Native Language Immersion and Restoration grants under the Esther Martinez Native Languages Act - Admin. for Native Americans (ANA), Admin. for Children and Families, U.S. Health and Human Services - Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill.

**RESOLUTION 2012-33 The MIEA Supports an Increase in funding for Title VII, Indian Education for the FY 13 budget at a minimum of 5% (Currently there is no increase proposed from FY 12 in the proposed budget which includes \$105.9 million for Formula grants, \$18.9 million for Special Programs for Indian children, and \$5.8 Million for National Activities).**

1. The MIEA asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support a 5% increase for Title VII, Native Education, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

**RESOLUTION 2012-34: The MIEA supports NIEA's position on a 5% Increase for Impact Aid,-ESEA - U.S. Dept. of Education - Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill**

The MIEA asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support a 5% increase for FY11 over the FY10 enacted level for impact aid. The President's FY11 request for Impact Aid is \$1.138 billion, which was the FY10 enacted level. This amount does not keep pace with inflation. Further, the FY11 budget proposes \$17.509 million for impact aid facilities construction. The funding proposed for FY11 does not meet the tremendous backlog to build new facilities. Many public schools on reservations are crumbling and should be replaced. MIEA urges that the 5% increase be used for facilities construction so that some progress can be made in meeting the mushrooming public school construction needs on reservations.

**RESOLUTION 2012-35: The MIEA Supports inclusion of BIE in the Race to the Top Grant Program:**

The Montana Indian Education Association supports the National Indian Education Association's position and asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support legislation to allow the BIE and Tribes to receive 1-5% of the funds from Race to the Top and the Innovation fund for BIE Schools, Tribes and Tribal Education Departments for activities consistent with these programs.

**RESOLUTION 2012-36: The Montana Indian Education Association asks the Montana Congressional Delegation to support the National Indian Education Association's position supporting Head Start funding including:**

1. Recognizing that achieving a significant funding increase in FY 2013 will be difficult, Head Start should at least be held harmless from any reductions, just as other low

income programs are held harmless in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (e.g., Child Care Entitlement to States; Child Health Insurance Fund; Family Support Programs and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

2. Urge that the definition of “expansion” for funding purposes should include not only new positions, but also the establishment of new programs in unserved Indian communities, as well as quality improvements (e.g., increased staffing, professional development, transportation equipment, computer technology/web access, facility renovations and repair, etc.). Requests for expansion should also include going from part-day to full-day, from home-based to center-based, full year services and from Head Start to Early Head Start.