



Seattle Public Schools

American Indian Studies

Guiding Questions for this document:

1. What does this mean to us?
2. What is the current state of this program in the District?
3. What growth opportunities do we envision?

What is American Indian Studies?

American Indian and Indigenous people studies focuses on historical and contemporary issues and their effects on Indigenous peoples, with a primary focus on American Indian peoples of the Puget Sound area and the United States of America. These studies examine the tribal sovereignty, heritage, history, culture, and contemporary experiences of Native peoples.

What is our current process?

American Indian Studies in Seattle Public Schools (SPS) is in year three of a three-year Since Time Immemorial state curriculum adoption. Part of the state requirement is to develop regionally based classroom resources. This includes scope and sequence development, training, curriculum writing, as well as advising teachers and the District's social studies program.

During the 2020-21 school year a cadre of five classroom middle school teachers met monthly to develop a comprehensive scope and sequence for SPS's new two-semester 7th grade Washington State history course. The cadre wrote 14 literacy and social studies standards-aligned inquiries based on the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) model, the essential understandings of the National Museum of the American Indian, as well as incorporating two of Dr. Gholdy Muhammad's Historically Responsive Literacy Framework goals: identity and criticality (Cultivating Genius, 2020). Not only did we provide a schema for classroom teachers, but we also provided resources, a pacing guide, and modifications and differentiations for scaffolding and extending learning, and end of term project-based learning outline.

Other District initiatives include:

- Native American Racial Equity Tool (NARET) for all teachers and principals, at this time only middle school principals have been trained to use the NARET.
- Direct classes and support to students at the following schools: Denny and Jane Addams Middle Schools and Chief Sealth and Nathan Hale High Schools.
- American Indian Resource Library, located at Meany Middle School, all SPS district employees and students have access to the Native American Education Department Library.

As a result of the FY21-22 Participatory Budgeting process, the Native American Education Department increased their curriculum specialist to full-time. With the additional 0.6 FTE, we can implement the Since Time Immemorial curriculum in SPS. This also allows us to give more Professional Development and go into teacher classrooms to support them as they are teaching the curriculum.

What growth opportunities do we envision?

District leaders believe further work is needed to align curricula from preschool through twelfth grade, ongoing training, development of model lessons, adapting current Since Time Immemorial lessons for remote learning, creating units of study for Washington state history and civics courses and coordinating with other District programs for cross discipline opportunities and teacher support.

Budget and Staffing Summary

	Adopted Budget		
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total Budget	\$ 1,247,349	\$ 1,294,074	\$ 1,424,048
Staffing FTE	9.4	9.4	10.0

Positions Staffed	FTE	FTE	FTE
Native American Ed Program Manager	1.0	1.0	1.0
Curriculum Specialist	0.4	0.4	1.0
Student Support Services Consulting Teacher	2.0	2.0	2.0
High School Teacher	2.0	2.0	2.0
Instructional Assistant	3.0	3.0	3.0
Re-Entry Intervention Specialist	1.0	1.0	1.0