



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Tribal Consultation Overview for School Districts

- WHAT:** Tribal consultation, required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), is a formal process between tribal leaders and school districts that serve Alaska Native or American Indian students.
- WHO:** This consultation process is required of any district that received a Federal Title VI grant (subpart 1 of Part A) that exceeds \$40,000 in the previous fiscal year, or with a school or district with an enrollment of Alaska Native or American Indian student population of at least 50 percent.
- WHY:** This consultation process creates opportunities for school districts and tribal leaders to work together to meet the needs of Alaska's Native students. Consultation allows affected school districts to gather input from tribal organizations, fostering collaboration that is a critical part of improving academic outcomes for Alaska Native students. Please refer to the [Dear Colleague letter from the United States Department of Education](#) for additional information on tribal consultation.
- HOW:** Affected school districts must ensure meaningful consultation with tribes before submitting plans or applications on the following:
- Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by State and Local Educational Agencies)
 - Title I, Part C (Education of Migratory Children)
 - Title I, Part D (Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk)
 - Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)
 - Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act)
 - Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
 - Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
 - Title V, Part B, subpart 2 (Rural and Low-Income School Program)
 - Title VI, Part A, subpart 1 (Indian Education Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies)

Meaningful consultation is defined as an opportunity to provide input and feedback to the school district on plans for any covered program. Consultation must be done "in a manner and in such time that provides an opportunity for such appropriate officials from Indian tribes or tribal organizations to meaningfully and substantively contribute" (Sec 8538(a)).

- WHEN:** A school district should consider providing a list of issues or questions on which the school district seeks input, or provide draft plans for this purpose, in advance of the consultation and before it makes a final decision on significant and substantive issues related to the content of the plans. School districts should consider providing written responses to explain how input was considered. Consultation required under Section 8538 shall not interfere with timely submission of the plans or applications.