



Education Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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Article X, Section 1(2) Presentations and Panel Discussion Info

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Room 317, State Capitol

THE STATE RECOGNIZES THE DISTINCT AND UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS AND IS COMMITTED IN ITS EDUCATIONAL GOALS TO THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR CULTURAL INTEGRITY.

Article X, Section 1(2) of the Montana Constitution

Brief history of IEFA and inventory of current efforts related to Article X, Section 1(2) – Pad McCracken, EDIC Committee Staff

Overview of IEFA resources – Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist, OPI

Panelists:

- Jordann Lankford-Forster – 7-12 IEFA Instructional Coach, Great Falls Public Schools; Chairperson, MACIE
- Mandy Smoker Broaddus – Project Leader, Education Northwest; Member, National Advisory Council on Indian Education
- Yancey Beston – Board Chair, Frazer School District; MTSBA Board of Directors and Vice Chair, Indian School Board Caucus; Member, MACIE
- Iris Kill Eagle – Trustee, Dodson K-12 Schools; MTSBA Board of Directors and Chair, Indian School Board Caucus; Secretary, MACIE
- Dr. Brooke Gondara – Director of American Indian Education and Tribal Student Achievement, OPI

Discussion prompts:

- What does the “preservation of American Indian cultural integrity” mean to you?
- What is the most powerful outcome of IEFA that you have seen or heard about?
- How do you feel MT is doing in meeting our Art X commitment? What do you base that assessment on? What would improve the state’s commitment?

Terminology/Acronyms

- IEFA – Indian Education for All
- MACIE – Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education
- MILP – Montana Indian Language Preservation
- CICA – Cultural Integrity Commitment Act (Indian Language Immersion Schools)