

Article X, Section 1(2)

Slides to accompany a [staff briefing paper](#) prepared for a joint meeting of the Education and Education Budget Interim Committees

March 17, 2026

by Pad McCracken, Deputy
Research Director, LSD



Dorothy Edcs Gem From [unclear] - Bazerton -
ARTICLE X
From the Floor!

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Educational goals and duties.

(1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) 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.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

Section 2. Public school fund. The public school fund of the state shall consist of: (1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States

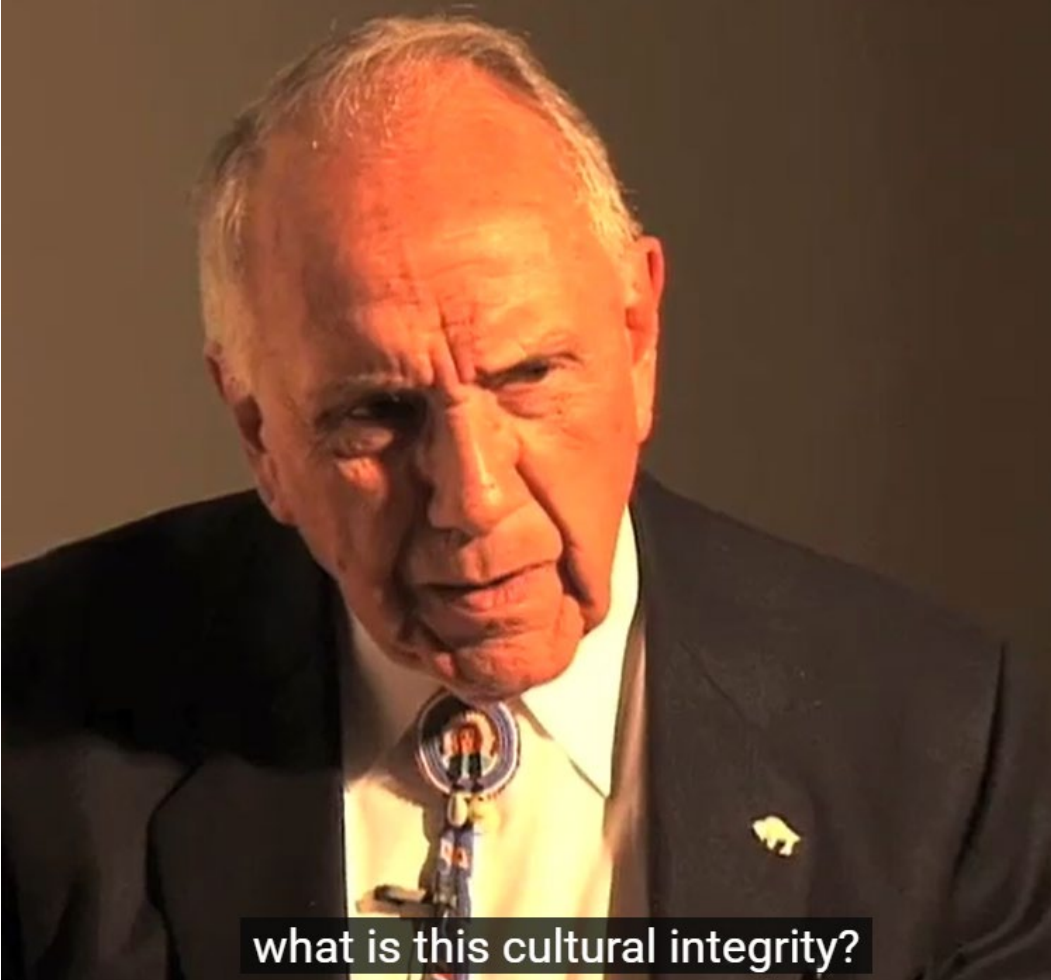


Constitutional Convention Delegate and Former State Senator Dorothy Eck

<https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2017/sep/25/former-state-sen-dorothy-eck-dies-at-93-6/>
(Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez/Bozeman Daily Chronicle via AP)

Earl Barlow, Blackfeet leader and educator. Known as the Father of Indian Education in Montana.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPVhxLVEDSw>



what is this cultural integrity?

Every other ethnic group in this country has a country of origin to relate to in their pride of heritage, and we have learned in our schools about their countries. All of us have taken Greek history, Roman history, English history, French history, and so forth. **Why not Indian history? The Irish have a national day. Try to deny the Irish in this country or in Butte (Laughter) the celebration of that national day. I hope I can be there next Friday to celebrate it with them. (Laughter) We'd have a revolution on our hands. Why not a Chief Charlo Day, Chief Joseph, Chief Hungry Horse, and so forth? What is the country of origin for our American Indians? It is America. What have the average Americans learned in our schools about our American people? Very little, if not nothing.**

Delegate Rick Champoux
March 10, 1972

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, Earl J. Barlow was born on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana on June 2, 1927; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Browning High School in 1944, Earl enlisted in the United States Army during World War II, and was later honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Montana, he enrolled at the Montana State Normal College, graduating with honors in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and later earning a Master of Education degree from the University of Montana; and

WHEREAS, after beginning his career in education in Hot Springs, Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Earl was an education leader at many different posts, including as superintendent of various school districts and as Director of the Office of Indian Education at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, June 2 is recognized as "Earl J. Barlow Day", which celebrates his extensive, meaningful lifelong accomplishments to strengthen Indian Education in the State of Montana and throughout the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim June 2, 2021 to be

EARL J. BARLOW DAY

in Montana to continue to recognize his lifetime of dedication toward enhancing Indian Education, Native American Rights, and for providing an endless source of knowledge and wisdom to future generations. The bond between Tribal Nations and the State of Montana is stronger because of Earl J. Barlow's work to promote civil rights and education for all Native Americans.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor

Article X, Section 1(2) Timeline

1972
Constitution

1995
Class 7
Licenses
Created

1999
IEFA
Enacted

2013
MILP Program
Established

2021
Grow Your
Own
Created

2025
UM NAGPRA
Funding



1973
Indian
Studies Law
Enacted

1979
Indian
Studies Law
Revised

1997
American
Indian Heritage
Day
added to list of
school
commemorative
days
20-1-306, MCA

2005
IEFA
Funding
Component

2015
CICA
Enacted
(Language
Immersion)

2021
MTDA
Language
Course
Funding

2023 & 2025
IEFA
Strengthened

Programs/funding streams reflecting the Article X, Section 1(2) Commitment

Program	FY 26 Funding	Statute or Rule
Indian Education for All	\$3.8 million	Title 20, chapter 1, part 5, MCA 20-9-329, MCA ARM 10.53.102
Montana Indian Language Preservation Program	\$750,000	20-9-537, MCA
Indian Language Immersion Schools	\$265,000	Title 20, chapter 7, part 14, MCA
Indian Language and Cultural Specialists (Class 7 License)	No specific funding, but Class 7 Specialists generate a Quality Educator payment when employed by school districts.	ARM 10.57.436
Grow Your Own	\$500,000 (biennial; ongoing; HB 499)	20-4-601, MCA
Tribal Language courses through MTDA	None	NA
UM NAGPRA Repatriation Support Team	\$368,000 (OTO)	NA