



Indian Education for All Update Education Interim Committee – March 2026

The OPI [Indian Education for All Unit](#) works to ensure we are moving forward in our mission and that all Montana students have an opportunity to learn who Montana Indians were and are today. Here are some highlights of the work we have done recently.

Increased Accountability and Reporting Requirements

- As a result of legislative updates to [§ 20-1-501, MCA](#), the IEFA Unit has worked to increase our IEFA reporting requirements regarding appropriate uses of funds.
- In addition, accreditation requirements for basic educational programming at the elementary, middle and high school levels (ARM [10.55.901](#), [10.55.902](#), and [10.55.904](#), respectively) require that school programming be aligned to the content standards and recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritages of Americans.
- Separately, under ARM [10.55.603](#), school districts must establish curriculum and assessment development and review processes that include regular review of curricula, instructional materials, and resources. As part of this review, districts must ensure the inclusion of the distinct and unique cultural heritages and the contemporary portrayals of American Indians.

Professional Development and Technical Assistance:

- IEFA staff work to support schools based upon accreditation reports to provide relevant and responsive support to school districts. We collaborate with a variety of statewide partners to assist in our ongoing implementation efforts. Partners include school districts, conference partners and MACIE
- IEFA on-line and web-based supports include webinars and HUB courses featuring cultural presenters from Montana tribes, curricular resources and lesson plans
- Approximately **60 in-person and virtual presentations during the 24-25 school year for over 2600 teachers and students.**
- Since July of 2025 IEFA Staff have provided **57 IEFA workshops and this includes 25 schools and other stakeholder groups for approximately 1800 participants.** Key topics included IEFA integration, culturally responsive practices, and content specific IEFA resources.
- IEFA Recorded Webinars (January 2025 – March 2026) – **486 Professional Development Units** for webinar completion.
- The IEFA team has collaborated with the Standards, Instruction, and Professional Learning Team on content revisions for Math, English Language Arts & Literacy, World Languages, and English Language Proficiency Standards, in effort to have authentic integration of Indian Education for All throughout the standards.
- Expanded Mathematics guidance documents provide embedded IEFA examples across every content standard, supporting educators in integrating tribal perspectives into a range of mathematical concepts.
- IEFA has had a large role in providing collaborative and technical support in the development of assessment items for MAST Math, ELA, and the MAST Science Pilot.
- IEFA provides technical assistance with Curriculum Mapping to support better IEFA implementation.

- Technical assistance for schools in identifying curricular materials to support instruction is offered on an individualized basis allowing for tailoring to school district's specific needs and requests.
- IEFA uses the Essential Understandings to help guide school districts and in developing classroom resources.
- Teacher Learning Hub courses – The **Introduction to IEFA Course has had approximately 10,000 teachers complete it since 2016**. During the 2024/25 school year 1807 teachers completed IEFA HUB courses.
- The annual **IEFA Best Practices Conference regularly has over 200 attendees** and features exemplary implementation efforts from current classroom teachers. The **2025 Best Practices had approximately 200 attendees and it featured 47 workshops** that covered a wide range of topics. Our 2026 conference will be at East Helena High School and we anticipate 200 attendees.
- The IEFA Public Feedback Portal has received **27 submissions** since its introduction, with personalized responses to every submission made in the portal. We continue to promote the portal and encourage schools and the public to provide comments and feedback.

IEFA Classroom Resource Development:

- 60 Social Studies lessons developed
- 20 English Language Arts companion lessons for books
- 19 Math lessons developed
- 25 Science lessons developed
- 45 Videos produced
- Ongoing creation of new IEFA lesson plans in collaboration with teachers and tribes

School IEFA presentations since July 2025 include: Box Elder, Polson, Hysham, Garfield County Schools, Savage, Deer Lodge, Kalispell, Reed Point, Helena, Drummond, Anaconda, Corvallis, Big Fork, Lame Deer, Pine Creek, Hardin, Lolo, Cardwell, Chester, Nashua, Amsterdam, Gardiner, Shields Valley Schools, Miles City, Trego, and Huntley Project.

