

American Indian Education

What Is Act 31?

American Indian Studies in Wisconsin (often referred as Wisconsin Act 31) refers to the requirement that all public school districts and pre-service education programs provide instruction on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of Wisconsin's eleven federally-recognized American Indian nations and tribal communities.

Thus, the references mentioning American Indian Studies in Wisconsin or Wisconsin Act 31 in the context of education are likely referring to the state statutes listed below.

Statutes and Rules

§115.28(17)(d), Wis Stats.

General duties. The state superintendent shall:

(17) AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EDUCATION.

(d) Develop a curriculum for grades 4 to 12 on the Chippewa Indians' treaty-based, off-reservation rights to hunt, fish and gather.

§118.01(2)(c)(7.and 8.), Wis Stats.

Educational goals and expectations.

(2) EDUCATIONAL GOALS. . .each school board shall provide an instructional program designed to give pupils:

7. An appreciation and understanding of different value systems and cultures.

8. At all grade levels, an understanding of human relations, particularly with regard to American Indians, Black Americans and Hispanics.

§118.19(8), Wis Stats.

Teacher certificates and licenses.

(8) The state superintendent may not grant to any person a license to teach unless the person has received instruction in the study of minority group relations, including instruction in the history, culture and tribal sovereignty of the federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands located in this state.

§121.02, Wis Stats.

School district standards.

(1) Except as provided in §118.40 (2r)(d), each school board shall:

(h) Provide adequate instructional materials, texts and library services which reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society.

* * *

(L) 4. Beginning September 1, 1991, as part of the social studies curriculum, include instruction in the history, culture and tribal sovereignty of the federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands located in this state at least twice in the elementary grades and at least once in the high school grades.

What Is Title VI?

"The mission of the Office of Indian Education is to support the efforts of local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, postsecondary institutions, and other entities to meet the unique language, and educational needs of such students; and ensure that all students meet the challenging State academic standards.

The [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (page 246) amends the Indian education programs as Title VI, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country."

[\(U.S. Department of Education Office of Indian Education\)](#)

"It is the policy of the United States to fulfill the Federal Government's unique and continuing trust relationship with and responsibility to the Indian people for the education of Indian children. The Federal Government will continue to work with local educational agencies, Indian tribes and organizations, post-secondary institutions, and other entities toward the goal of ensuring that programs that serve Indian children are of the highest quality and provide for not only the basic elementary and secondary educational needs, but also the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of these children."

(U.S. Department of Education Title VII Program)

Is My Student Eligible For Title VI Services?

In order for your student to be eligible to receive support from the Title VI Indian Education Program, you will need to submit a Federal 506 Form to the School District of Ashland. Please read below to determine if your student qualifies for services.

Parents/Guardians: Please return this completed form: [Federal 506 Form](#) in order for the district to apply for a formula grant, under the Indian Education program. You are not required to complete or submit this form to the school. However, if you choose not to submit a form, the school cannot count your child for funding under the program. This form will become part of your child's school record and **will not** need to be completed every year. This form will be maintained at the school and information on the form will not be released without your written approval. Any child who meets the following definition may be counted for this purpose:

Definition: Indian means any individual who is (1) a member (as defined by the Indian tribe or band) of an Indian tribe or band, including those Indian tribes or bands terminated since 1940, and those recognized by the State in which the tribe or band reside; or (2) a descendant in the first or second degree (parent or grandparent) as described in (1); or (3) considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose; or (4) an Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska Native; or (5) a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect October 19, 1994.

[American Indian Policies and Procedures](#)