

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



***PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE for 17LSO-0055 Working Draft 0.4 submitted
11/15/16 by Rob Black, Wyoming Department of Education social
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American Indian Education program

Sponsored by: HDraft Committee

A BILL

For

AN ACT relating to public education; recognizing the importance of preserving the heritage and contributions of American Indian tribes through education; providing legislative findings in relation to this education; requiring school districts to provide an educational program to students related to the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes; imposing requirements on the state board of education and the department of education; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 21-4-602 is created to read:

ARTICLE 6 - AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

21-4-602. American Indian educational program.

(a) The legislature recognizes the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians and declares it is the state's policy to preserve that heritage and contributions through education. It is therefore the intent of the legislature that all teachers and other school personnel have an understanding and awareness of American Indian tribes, with particular emphasis on the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes, to gain an understanding of and appreciation for American Indians and to help relate effectively with American Indian students and parents.

(b) The state board through the department of education shall, in cooperation with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes, evaluate and review existing state content and performance standards to ensure the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes, are addressed in the Wyoming content and performance standards.

(c) The department shall consult the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes to determine digital materials and resources approved by the tribes that are to be made available via the department's public web site to assist school districts in meeting benchmarks within Wyoming content and performance standards relating to study of American Indian tribes.

Section 2. W.S. 21-9-101 by creating a new subsection (h) is amended to read:

21-9-101. Educational programs for schools; standards; core of knowledge and skills; special needs programs; class size requirements; cocurricular activities.

(h) Following the review of standards pursuant to Section 1(b) of this act and in addition to subsections (b) through (d) of this section, each school district within the state shall provide an educational program addressing the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes within one (1) full school year following standards adoption.

Section 3. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)