SENATE EDUCATION
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School District Indian Education For All Implementation

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Most school districts in Montana are making great strides at implementing IEFA. In a very short amount of time, there have been many activities at the local level using their appropriated IEFA funds. Even using a brief snapshot of 1 ½ years, we have many examples:

- Great Falls hired 2 IEFA Curriculum Coaches to work with teachers in their district. They have trained all teachers and many of their support staff. Just last week, these 2 coaches presented IEFA information to their food service and transportation staff.

- Havre hired an IEFA Coordinator to implement IEFA at their schools. They have an online learning module that all teachers need to take within three years.

- Helena – Offering a series of professional development activities for their teachers and some grades have started integrating their curriculum with Indian content.

- Billings -- hired an Indian Education For All Coordinator to work with teachers to implement IEFA.

- Box Elder, Wolf Point, and Montana City each hired an IEFA Coordinator to work with teachers and curriculum.

- Hamilton hired an IEFA Coordinator, offered an intensive professional development course to all their teachers and purchased a multitude of materials.

- Dawson Community College is coordinating IEFA professional development efforts to their teachers of 13 districts in their region. These 13 districts pooled their IEFA funds to create an "Eastern Montana IEFA Consortium." DCC provides IEFA speakers via ITV to the consortium teachers on a regular basis.

- Turner schools – 30 percent of the staff have attended IEFA professional development conferences. They have purchased a multitude of materials and have invited speakers to their school.

- Boyd School – a very small school serving 4 students in Carbon County (and receives a very minimal amount of funding) is implementing IEFA. They plan to purchase books, CDs and work on curriculum development and send teachers to professional development activities). They are also going to send students on field trips to learn about Indian history in their area.

- Anaconda High School teaches 3 sections of Native American history within its Montana History class; 2 sections of Native American Art in its art classes. All seniors read a novel with American Indian content and follow-up with a section on the tribes of Montana. The high school will add a Native American History and Culture class for the 2007-08 academic year.

- Ronan works in partnership with Salish Kootenai College to provide lessons regarding the local tribes and for professional development for their teachers. They are incorporating Salish and Kootenai content into all curricula areas. They are stocking their library holdings with appropriate IEFA literature.

- Kalispell is working with the Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative to identify curricular goals, tribal contacts, and potential materials. The middle school is including an IEFA mini course (6 weeks) that all of their 6th graders will be required to take during the 2007-08 school year.

- The state's curriculum consortia are all working with their member schools to integrate Indian content into existing school curriculum.

Evidence that schools are making efforts to implement IEFA.

- The OPI Indian Education website was used over 110,000 times this past year and 75 percent of Montana schools reported accessing it to download materials.

- The OPI Indian Education online professional development module was viewed by nearly 400 educators that outlines the history of IEFA and OPI's current activities.

- 50 Montana school librarians attended an OPI sponsored 3 day conference about reviewing books and other materials for accurate information about American Indians. We had a waiting list of at least 50 more -- We will host 2 more institutes this summer that will reach over 100 more school librarians.