

Education Interim Budget Committee Summary Report - September 14, 2022 - Submitted by Representative Jonathan Windy Boy HD32

Honorable David Bedey, Chairman

During the first Interim report in December 2021. The findings of the survey was 48% of the attendees said they didn't know what the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program (MILPP). 55% of the respondents didn't know anything about the Indian Language Immersion Program (ILIP). It was also found, at the rate Native Language Instruction is taught in the class room in a public school. It takes approximately 2,000 hours to learn a language. There's 180 days in a school year or 36 weeks. 11,800 hours available in a K-12 education. Most schools allow up to 1 hour per week for language classes, equating to 36 hrs per school year of language instruction. When you do the math, it'll take 2,000 hrs divide 36 yrs hrs/year = 55.6 years for a student to become a fluent speaker.

The Heart Butte School Superintendent and former Blaine County Superintendent of Schools noted that there was zero to little support from any union representation previously, but welcomed the support from the MEA/MFPE organization for their support moving forward. They also relished in the Class 7 Alliance for their support with their endeavors.

Mr Terry Broke shared with the conference attendees Proficiency Standards that he learned from a presenter at a Class 7 conference in Bozeman. It's the last page of his presentation.

Heart Butte Administration Mike Tasty has done an amazing presentation in the final Class 7 Alliance conference held in Helena last week, September 8-9, 2023. One thing that struck a cord for attendees is how much flexibility a superintendent has on the expenditure of Impact id dollars. Mr Tasty also shared successes and increases in the test scores of his students, as well as the increase in graduation rates.

Crow Administrator shared what they're implementing in row and surrounding schools. They took what Hawaiian Immersion specialist Dr Ku Kahakalau from Hawaii presented at the Gt Falls conference in June.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create a reporting requirement in statute for the previous year, before releasing subsequent funding.
2. Put in rule, a proficiency model as a guiding principal.
3. Submit language to support Class 7 teachers. Also suggested language to support Native Language Curriculum. Eg., Tribal Education Departments.

Bill Draft request submitted to Legislative Services to mirror SB 34, Education Compacts in the Alaska Legislature, with a Montana twist of course

3 previous committee reports are on the mt.gov websight under the EIBC link for your review.

Thank you very much for giving us this honor and hearing the Class 7 certified Native Language Educators. The momentum of this effort will be ongoing as the Class 7 Alliance is taking tge baton and future conferences are already being planned. After the December event in Billings, the Crow Tribe will be hosting the one in March 2023. After the December conference, I will be submitting my 5th and final report to the EIBC.

Respectfully submitted