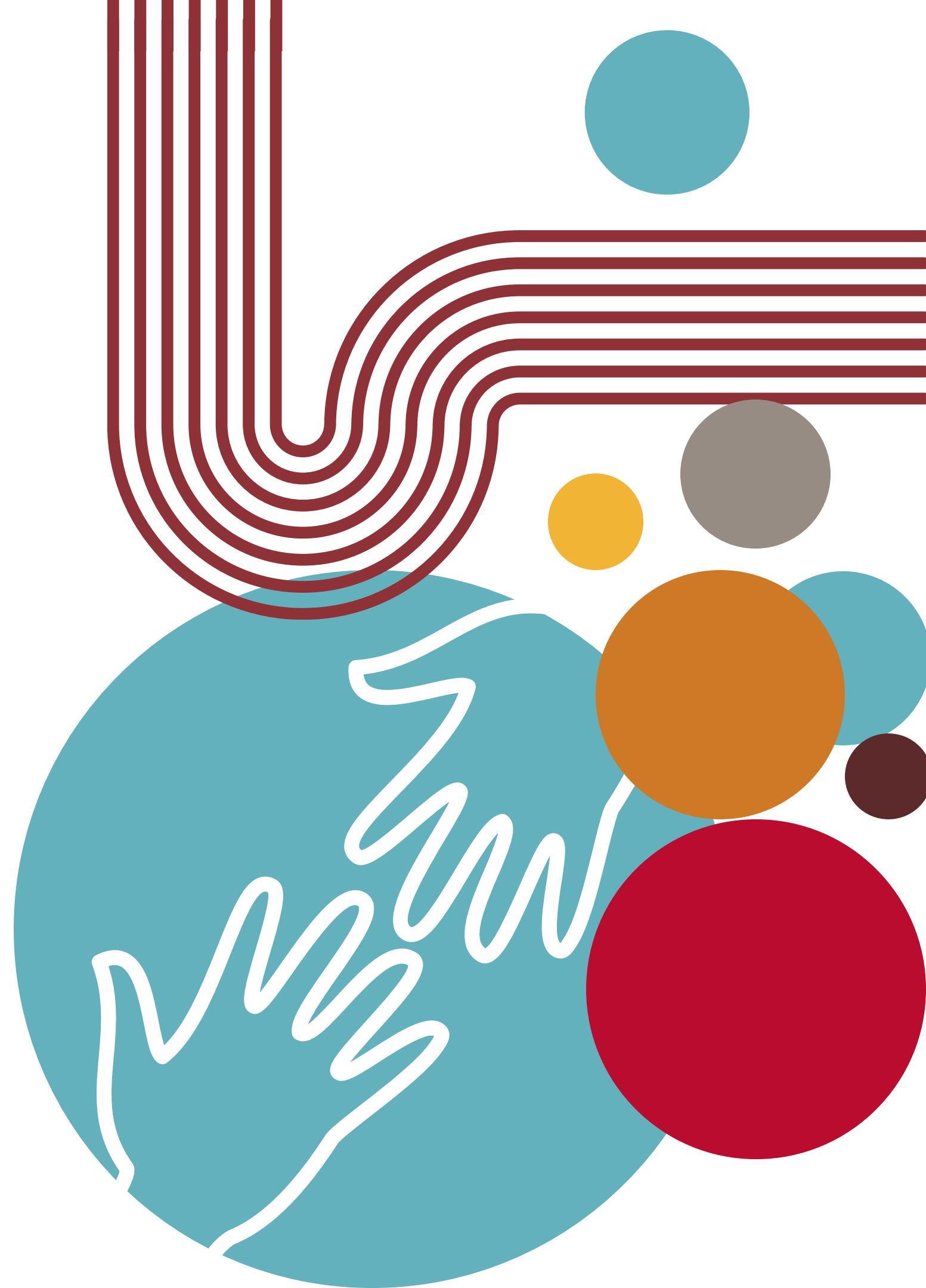


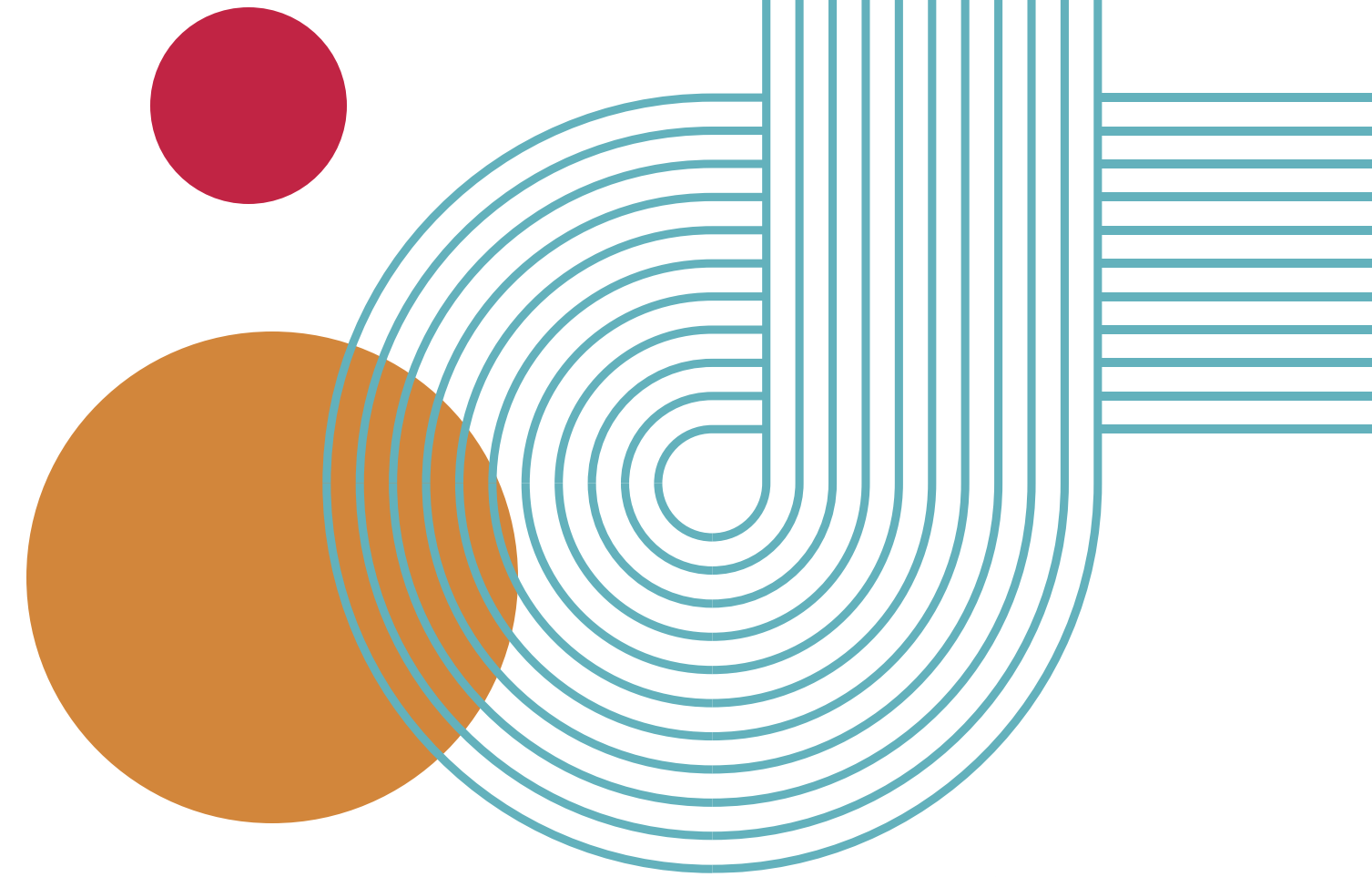
Updates From NIEA



WELCOME



Thank you for joining us today. We look forward to sharing updates and learning alongside you as we all work to advance Native education.



Intro to NIEA

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 to fight for the educational rights of Native American students. NIEA has played a critical role in shaping education policy, including the Indian Education Act of 1972, and remains dedicated to advocating for Native communities. Today, NIEA continues to work toward equity, supporting both students and educators to ensure quality, culturally responsive education.

Mission: To advocate for Native students and communities through legislative action, policy development, and educational programs that promote academic success and cultural preservation.

Vision: A world where Native students thrive in an inclusive, culturally relevant educational environment.

Why NIEA Matters: NIEA stands at the forefront of education reform, empowering Native educators, students, and families to navigate and impact the educational landscape through advocacy, policy changes, and community engagement.



Federal Policy Updates

This year, NIEA has been actively engaged in responding to several federal executive orders with significant implications for Native education. One key development is Executive Order 14191, which emphasizes expanding school choice. While the intention may be to increase flexibility for families, NIEA has emphasized the importance of meaningful Tribal consultation. Tribally Controlled Schools already provide Native families with choice grounded in sovereignty and self-determination, but they remain critically underfunded. Without new investments, expanded choice initiatives risk stretching already limited resources even further.

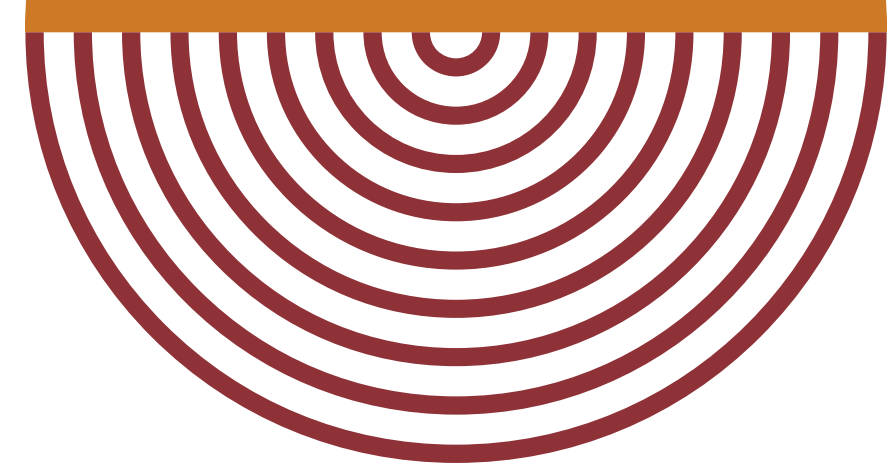
We're also closely following Executive Order 14190, which focuses on eliminating what it refers to as "radical indoctrination" in K–12 education. NIEA has expressed concern that such language could lead to the restriction of culturally relevant and historically accurate instruction, particularly in states where Native content has only recently been incorporated into classrooms. We continue to advocate for Tribal representation and input in any policy changes that may impact curriculum and local control.

In addition, NIEA joined a coalition of Native organizations in submitting a letter to federal leadership reaffirming Tribal sovereignty and calling for clarity on how Tribal programs are categorized in the federal budget. The coalition asked that funding for Tribal initiatives not be grouped with broader DEI or environmental programs, and that government-to-government consultation be prioritized when implementing administrative changes.

The Department of Education responded to NIEA's letter on Executive Order 14190 and affirmed that Native Histories and Education are not DEI.

Through all of this, our message is simple: Native students deserve to be seen, heard, and served in ways that honor sovereignty and community. NIEA will continue to hold federal agencies accountable to that promise.

Call for Public Comment



U.S. Department of Education Proposed Priorities

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a request for public comment on proposed priorities and definitions that will guide future discretionary grantmaking. These proposals include language around:

- Evidence-based literacy instruction
- Expanding education choice
- Shifting greater authority to states and local communities

While these terms may seem broad, they carry significant implications for Native education systems, funding, and sovereignty. NIEA urges Tribal leaders, Native educators, and advocates to review the proposal closely and submit comments that reflect the needs of Native students and uphold the trust responsibility.

Deadline to Submit Comments: June 20, 2025

Submit via: <https://bit.ly/3ZQVbOd>

Public input is essential to ensure Native voices are included in shaping federal education policy.

Scan the QR Code
to submit public comment



Tribal Colleges And Universities



Recent federal budget proposals include a significant reduction in funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), with the FY2026 request dropping to \$22.1 million—an 83% decrease from previous years. This proposed cut would severely impact the 37 TCUs serving Native students across the country, many of which are already operating under chronic underfunding.

TCUs play a vital role in Native communities by providing culturally grounded, accessible higher education opportunities. They also serve as hubs for Native language preservation, community development, and workforce training aligned with Tribal priorities.

NIEA encourages Native educators, school leaders, and allies to stay informed and raise their voices. Contacting your state and federal representatives is one way to help ensure continued investment in TCUs and to reaffirm the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities.

For more information or to keep up with advocacy resources, please refer to or contact the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) at **info@aihec.org**

The Jay Treaty



The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is aware of the challenges facing Tribal Nations in New York due to recent attacks on Jay Treaty rights. These actions threaten the ability of Native citizens to move freely across the U.S.-Canada border—rights that are critical for maintaining cultural, educational, and family connections.

NIEA recognizes that these barriers directly impact Native students, educators, and communities, making access to education and cultural continuity more difficult. We are actively monitoring the situation and remain in contact with the Jay Treaty Border Alliance and other partners who are working to protect these vital rights.

NIEA stands with New York Tribal Nations and Native educators and will continue to raise awareness and support efforts to safeguard border-crossing rights and educational opportunities.



NIEA's Programs & Initiatives



The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) advances Native education through programs that center Tribal knowledge, promote culturally grounded learning, and support Native educators and students.

Our *Tribal Communities in Schools (TCIS)* initiative supports community-driven education, helping schools and Tribal Nations work together to meet the holistic needs of Native students.

Through *Native Education for All (NEFA)*, we promote inclusive, accurate education about Native peoples and histories. A key piece of this work is the *NEFA Summer Institute*—a professional learning experience for educators that centers Indigenous knowledge, land-based learning, and Tribal sovereignty.

We are helping build the next generation of Native language leaders through the *Emerging Native Language Leaders Fellowship*, which connects early-career advocates with veteran mentors.

Our *Whole Child Prevention & Wellness* work promotes safe and supportive learning environments through programs that address the well-being of Native students and educators.



Native Educator Support & Training

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is currently conducting a National Native American Educator Landscape Analysis, which aims to provide a comprehensive count of Native American, American Indian, and Alaskan Native educators in the public education system, along with their roles. This analysis will help us gain a deeper understanding of the needs of Native American professionals and the climate of their teaching environments, allowing us to better serve them. The information gathered through this anonymous survey will be used in our analysis and final report.



**Scan the QR Code to take the
Educator Landscape Analysis
Survey**

Annual NIEA Convention & Trade Show

Join us in Spokane, Washington, for the **56th Annual NIEA Convention and Trade Show**, happening **October 8–11, 2025**! Each year, this powerful gathering brings together thousands of Native educators, students, Tribal leaders, and advocates from across the country to celebrate, strengthen, and shape the future of Native education.

Our 2025 theme, “**Empowering Sovereignty: Our Legacies, Our Futures,**” honors where we’ve been and looks boldly toward where we’re going—centering culture, language, and community every step of the way.



Scan the QR Code to learn more
about this year’s Convention!

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

2025 NIEA CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
OCTOBER 8TH – 11TH, 2025

**56TH ANNUAL
NIEA**
CONVENTION & TRADESHOW
OCT. 8–11, 2025 | SPOKANE, WA

CONVENTION HOST HOTELS

THE DAVENPORT GRAND HOTEL
333 W Spokane Falls Blvd,
Spokane, WA 99201

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
322 N Spokane Falls Ct,
Spokane, WA 99201

Book early to reserve your NIEA Convention Rate

**REGISTER FOR THE
CONVENTION AT
NIEA.ORG**

2024 Impact Stories



TCIS SUCCESS!

In 2024, NIEA's Tribal Communities in Schools (TCIS) program expanded to Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District in Northern California, bringing culturally responsive support to Native students. This initiative strengthens partnerships with tribal leaders, educators, and families to create inclusive learning environments that honor Native identities and promote student success. By addressing both academic and community needs, TCIS helps ensure Native youth have the resources and support to thrive.



EDUCATOR INITIATIVE!

In May 2024, Dezi Lynn, NIEA's Educator Initiative Manager, joined a faculty training at Central Michigan University, helping educators connect with Native communities. Through visits to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and firsthand stories, the training emphasized the need for culturally responsive teaching to better support Native students.



WORKING TOGETHER!

In December 2023 and January 2024, Bowler School District students teamed up with NIEA, the College of Menominee Nation, local leaders, and employers to build over 20 Leopold benches for the Stockbridge-Munsee and Menominee communities. Funded by the Catalyze Challenge grant, students earned industry credentials and college credits through hands-on construction experience, while receiving Carhartt gear and boots. This project highlights the value of career-connected learning and community collaboration.

CONCLUSION



Thank you all for joining us today and for your continued support of Native education. We hope this presentation has provided valuable insights into the work NIEA is doing to support Native students and communities across the country. We are excited about the progress we're making and the partnerships we're building, and we look forward to continuing to work together to create lasting change. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can ensure that Native students receive the education and support they deserve. Thank you again, and we hope to stay connected!

Stay Engaged

Stay connected through NIEA's website, social media, and upcoming events.

Get Involved

You can support our initiatives through membership, advocacy, and donations.



Thank You for Your Attention

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

The floor is open for any questions or feedback, and we encourage you to stay informed about NIEA's ongoing efforts to advocate for Native education, including recent federal policy updates that are shaping our work.

GET IN TOUCH



202-847-0036



www.niea.org



niea@niea.org

