



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Education Committee Chair

EDUCATION
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill 210 – Indigenous Cultural Heritage Education

Sponsor Statement – *Version A*

Senate Bill 210 seeks to revise Alaska’s education policy to encourage all students to learn about the distinct cultural heritages of Alaska Natives and American Indians. The goal is to create an equitable educational landscape that honors and integrates Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into Alaska’s public schools. As a result, Alaska’s public schools will infuse their curricula with local knowledge and cultural practices.

At its core, public education should prepare students to be college- and career-ready in the place where they live. With the largest Alaska Native population in the United States, Alaska is uniquely positioned to guarantee a public education rooted in Indigenous knowledge.

SB 210 amends Alaska’s current education policy to encourage every student and teacher in our public schools to learn about the distinct and unique cultural heritages of Alaska Natives and American Indians. To achieve this, the new policy requires Alaska’s school districts to work cooperatively with tribes to provide students with information about the cultural heritages and contemporary contributions of Alaska Natives and American Indians.

SB 210 ensures that:

- All school personnel have an understanding and awareness of Alaska Native and American Indian tribes.
- Directs school districts to consult and contract with local tribal entities to develop curricula, programming, and activities.

SB 210 codifies the existing practice of tribal consultation with Alaska’s school boards and districts. By ensuring staff members have the necessary awareness, they will be better equipped to relate and communicate effectively with Alaska Native students and parents.

SB 210 builds on the national Indigenous Education for All movement, which has successfully implemented similar frameworks in Montana and Minnesota.

By fostering collaboration between educational institutions and Indigenous communities, Senate Bill 210 ensures that all students receive a comprehensive and respectful education about Indigenous histories and cultures.