

Title VII Indian Education Program

Anchorage School District

January/February 2006 Bulletin Updates and Information
For Parents and Students K through 12



Native Advisory Committee Elects New Chairperson and Sets Agenda for 2005-2006

At its annual meeting in the Fall, the Native Advisory Committee (NAC) held elections, and Ann Haddox was elected as Chairperson for 2005-2006. As a personal goal, Haddox said, "I joined NAC to make a difference in Native education, and to help my daughter and other students learn to be leaders."

Student leadership is a focus for the NAC this year. Haddox said, "As a committee, we made the decision to use the student representatives in a more active way. The students lead some of the different sections of the NAC public meetings, and we are looking for other ways to involve the students, such as helping us present at other meetings."

Some additional goals of the NAC this year, include: holding public

meetings in different schools to give the public an opportunity to see who the NAC is; seeking public input on how to best serve Native students and their families and what flexible educational approaches for which the NAC can research/advocate; being a support to Title VII IEP; and having the student representatives, from four schools, serve in an active role on the NAC.

In her role, Haddox hopes to "be a positive link with ASD, the public, and those with whom I interact." The NAC meetings are open to the public and are held monthly at the various schools. For more info call Title VII IEP at 742-4445.

Special Interest Articles:

- NAC Starts of the 2005-2006 Year
- College Goal Sunday, Feb. 12
- Title VII Program Overview Part I: Staff Positions
- Benefits of the Title VII IEP
- NAC Student Rep

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College Goal Sunday: Feb. 12, 2006

College Goal Sunday is an annual statewide event that assists high school seniors with the financial aid process. Students and their parents are encouraged to attend to get **free on-site professional assistance** filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Parents will need to bring their last year's tax records.

College Goal Sunday is set for Feb. 12, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at locations throughout Alaska. Students should apply for their financial aid now because they are more likely to

receive full funding with an early application. By summer, funds will have been allocated and there will be less available to late applications.

Anchorage locations include East High School and West High School. For more information visit the web at Alaska College Goal Sunday website:

www.alaskacollegegoalsunday.org

Start planning now for your Fall 2006 college funding.

Title VII Indian Education Program Overview Part One: Roles and Responsibilities

*"In May, 2003, the Anchorage School Board called for a six-year instructional plan to chart the course for 'closing the achievement gap'."
- Title VII Objectives*



**Alaska
Native
Ways ...**

*Have patience -
Some things
cannot be rushed.
(Tlingit)*

The Title VII Indian Education Program (IEP) is designed to assist eligible Alaska Native and Native American students throughout their public school career. The Title VII IEP is part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act known as Title VII.

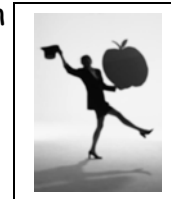
The program concentrates its efforts in these areas: 1. Increase academic achievements; 2. Foster a supportive and effective learning environment; and 3. Cultural enrichment.

To achieve its objectives, the Title VII IEP staff includes Supervisor, Doreen Brown, Admin. Assistant, Marilyn Balluta, and staff in the schools: Resource Teacher (certified), Youth Development Assistants and Youth Development Tutors. Formerly called Tutor Counselors, as part of

the NCLB Act the Youth Development Tutors (YDT) are now required to be highly qualified, including a minimum of two years of college (AA or 48 credits) or passing the H.E.L.P. test and evaluation.

Specifically, as direct services to students, the YDT provide academic tutoring to eligible Alaska Native/American Indian students. The Tutors also implement and evaluate individual specific educational learning plans, keep and evaluate student records, and track academic progress. As advocates, the YDT also communicate with students, parents/guardians, teachers, school administration and the community. For a list of schools, see the Title VII IEP website at www.asdk12.org/depts/IndEd/index.asp

Are you interested in joining the Title VII Indian Education Program team? Visit the Anchorage School District Administration Building at 4600 Debarr Rd., or visit their website at www.asdk12.org for employment opportunities.



Benefits and Services Provided by the Title VII IEP

The Title VII Indian Education Program provides both direct and indirect services to students in the Anchorage School District, including:

Direct Services: Cultural and academic services in the schools through the Youth Development Tutors and Youth Development Assistants.

Indirect Services: Evening Program, T/W 6-8 pm, Muldoon Elementary; Summer Enrichment Program; Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month activities; Outdoor Education Program (partnership with Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Migrant Education) at Dimond and West High schools; Indigenous Language Classes; Scholarship portfolio building; Teacher and paraprofessional cultural responsiveness training; Parent/Student Bulletin For information on these services, please call Title VII IEP at 742-4445.

Highlight NAC Student Rep Diana Austin-Orr

Diana Austin-Orr, a Senior at East High School, was elected as a student representative to the Title VII IEP Native Advisory Committee (NAC). Her family origins are in Kluckwan, and although she has never been there, she has been studying Tlingit for three years and intends to continue in college.

Austin-Orr hopes that being a student rep for the NAC will be a good influence on her brothers and sisters and other kids. One of the goals of the student reps is to help to get the word out about the Title VII Indian Education Programs available at the schools. "The EWE program at East High helps keep culture alive, and because of that, kids keep coming to school," she said. "When we lose cultural pride, it is hard to keep going to school." Cultural Pride begins at home, and parents are a good resource.

Her future plans include going to college for a Wildlife Veterinary degree. She intends to return to Alaska to work and to get back into Native activities like dancing and Tlingit history. She wants to be an advocate to help get young people involved in their culture.



Diana Austin-Orr, East High, is a student rep for the NAC. She has been studying Tlingit for three years through the IEP.

PARENTS: Get Involved in Your Title VII IEP

Parents are invited and encouraged to take an active role in their child's education and in the Title VII Indian Education Program. Here are a few simple suggestions:

What your child learned at school today? Problem: When you ask your child what he/she learned today at school do you get a response "nothing:".

Solution: Each day have your child tell you one specific skill he/she is working on in reading or math. **Problem:** When you ask do you have any homework do you get a response "nope".

Solution: Every child has homework every night even if it is simply reading for enjoyment. More tips to come in the next newsletter.

Volunteer at your child's school. Talk to your Title VII Indian Education Youth Development Tutor in elementary and middle schools or Youth Development Assistant in high schools to see what you can do to help your child achieve. Ask about the Lightspan network and how you can make it work for you and your child.

Good for You, Dads!

Dads, Get involved in your child's schooling and classroom:

- Visit her class this month
- Chaperone his field trip
- Attend Teacher Conferences
- Join a committee that meets after work or on weekends
- Talk about your career during your child's lunch hour
- Read to your child regularly
- Make school a priority

Kids benefit from spending time with their fathers:

Kids whose fathers take an active interest in their education get better grades and enjoy learning more.

(Parents, January, 2005)

Reminder:

2006-2007 School Year Will Begin August 22

Already making plans for summer break? Plan ahead! Be sure to plan your hunting, fishing and berry picking around the date of August 22, the first day of school.

School begins two weeks earlier than in previous years, on *Tuesday, August 22*. The earlier start date gives students more instructional time prior to statewide testing and allows the first semester to conclude in December at winter break, rather than carrying over to January.

[Registration dates](#) will be finalized in February.

See the ASD website for more information: www.asdk12.org

Title VII Indian Education Program
Anchorage School District
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

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Phone:
(907) 742-4445

Fax:
(907) 742-4585

[www.asdk12.org/
depts/IndEd/
index.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/IndEd/index.asp)



February/March Highlights

<u>Feb. 2:</u> Native Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm., West High School, in the Cove. Meetings are open to the public.	High School and West High School	6:30 - 8:00 pm at Hanshew Elementary
<u>Feb. 12:</u> College Goal Sunday, 2:00 pm, East	<u>Feb. 16:</u> Elizabeth Peratrovich Day	<u>March 17:</u> End of Third Quarter (state released grade reporting day)
	<u>Feb. 20:</u> State Released In-Service Day	<u>March 20-24:</u> Spring Break - no school.
	<u>March 2:</u> NAC Meeting,	

Next Issue will come out in March 2006

Follow the next two issues of the Title VII Indian Education Program Parent Bulletin for the next two articles explaining the	Title VII Law and how it affects the IEP. The next two articles will outline responsibilities in Academics and Social/Cultural areas. The Parent Bulletin	is now available on the Title VII IEP web site http://asdk12.org/depts/IndEd/newsletter/index.asp
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About The Title VII Indian Education Program . . .

The Title VII Indian Education Program of the Anchorage School District has staff in 50 schools within the district. The program concentrates its efforts in three areas: academic assistance, counseling, and cultural enrichment. Unfortunately, there is not enough funding to place staff in every school. However, if you or your child is interested in participating in activities, please call our offices at 742-4445. The Indian Education Resource Room is located at 5530 E. Northern Lts. Blvd., Anchorage.