



*Oregon achieves . . . together!*

**Colt Gill**

Acting Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

November 21, 2017

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### **Report Highlights Education of American Indian/Alaska Native Students**

*(Salem, Ore.)* – The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) today [released a report](#) on the state of education for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in Oregon. The review of key indicators is designed “to further conversations about improving outcomes for Oregon’s Native student population.” The report looks at demographics, assessment results, graduation rates and more data about this student group and its relationship to the statewide average.

“It’s clear from the data that there are significant opportunity gaps for American Indian and Alaska Native students,” Acting Deputy Superintendent Colt Gill said. “The data allow us to see the problem, but it is up to us to partner with our tribes, communities, and districts to put programs into place that change the system to better support our American Indian and Alaska Native students in culturally responsive ways.”

One of those partnership programs is the Tribal Attendance Pilot Project (TAPP) which aims to lower chronic absenteeism rates among AI/AN students. TAPP brings together school districts and the 9 federally recognized tribes in the state to come up with culturally specific plans designed to the needs of each community of students and families. In just its first year of implementation, TAPP is showing some success.

“Despite an unusually harsh winter, the majority of the schools with TAPP family advocates had improvements in their chronic absenteeism rates,” Indian Education Advisor April Campbell said. “It’s a good indicator that implementing culturally relevant programs provides benefits to all students, not just those from specific student groups.”

The American Indian/Alaska Native report is available on the [ODE website](#).

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