

What is this investment?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) recognizes the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nine federally recognized Tribes and Native communities in Oregon.

- Acknowledges the unique needs of each Tribe in the recovery process.
- ESSER funds allocated to address community-specific recovery areas.
- Focus on supporting education, culture, heritage, and language.

Goals

The initiative aims to strengthen a sustainable and culturally rich future for Tribes and Native communities in Oregon.

- ESSER funds will support the nine Tribal Nations in their efforts to foster positive self-identity through youth development, culture camps rooted in tradition, land-based learning reflecting ancestral ties, and multigenerational language offerings.
- This community-driven approach prioritizes recovery and a resilient and thriving future, working to foster a positive relationship between education, culture, heritage, and the environment.

Benefits

By fostering positive self-identities through cultural and community connections, the limited-duration investment seeks to provide American Indian/Alaska Native students with academic success and support the rich heritage of their cultures and communities.

- Relief funds act as a bridge, seeking to provide additional opportunities for connecting students to their cultural roots, ensuring that they inherit not just knowledge but a legacy of resilience, strength, and interconnectedness.
- The dedicated staff and initiatives within the selected education service districts and Office of Indian Education (OII) emphasize a holistic and culturally responsive educational environment, with additional staff for a limited duration to enhance support for the OII initiatives and endeavors, expanding the OII's reach.

ESD Specific work:

Solution: 1. Wellness: Elevate social-cultural well-being for AI/AN students and families. 2. Community: Actively consult Indigenous community members, prioritizing their voices, perspectives, and needs. 3. Instruction: Infuse culturally relevant education into component districts, incorporating insights into post-secondary life and opportunities.





Use of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds in Oregon Since 2020, Oregon has received \$1.62 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds to support the needs of all students, with a focus on historically excluded communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The state has allocated 90 percent of its allotment to school districts to spend based on their community's unique needs. ODE has distributed the other 9.5% (0.5% used for Administrative costs) to support 12 equity-driven initiatives designed to address unfinished learning, support our students' and staff's health, safety, and mental wellness, and strengthen high-quality, culturally-sustaining instruction and leadership. These initiatives
are designed for all students and are specifically centered on equitably serving Oregon's Black, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Tribal students, students with disabilities, students who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+; emerging bilingual; and those navigating foster care, houselessness, and poverty, and those with limited access to resources due to rural location.