

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation will start offering educational services to Native American Students in Del Norte and Curry County

March 23, 2022



The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation is excited to announce new educational services ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. The services will soon be offered to native students in the area through the Demonstration A.C.E Grant, which stands for Accessing Choices in Education.

The Nation's California/Oregon Indian Student Services Program intends to serve approximately 1,000 native students in Del Norte and Curry counties. The five-year grant awarded to the Nation in 2020 aims to give Native American families more educational choices. Student voice and choice have been shown to increase family leadership and American Indian student successes.

Demonstration Grants are a competitive discretionary grant program that supports plans to develop, test, and establish services and programs to improve the educational opportunities of Native American children.

The Nation is one of 40 to receive this grant across the United States. COISSP will partner with Del Norte County Schools, Curry County Schools, Title VI, the Yurok Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Elk Valley Rancheria, North Coast Indian Development Council, College of the Redwoods, and the Southwest Oregon Community College to bring services.

In partnership with these organizations, the Nation aims to develop more options that meet the needs of Native American students. Direct services to federally recognized Tribal Citizen students may include tutoring, training programs, native history, cultural knowledge, or student transportation. The Nation's COISSP Program will focus on the following Del Norte County Schools: Smith River School, Redwood School, Mary Peacock School, Pine Grove School, Del Norte High School, Crescent Elk, Sunset High School, and the Castle Rock Charter School. Curry County consists of three districts; this program will serve all seven school sites in those districts.

The services will include a mixture of working in the schools, at an office site, in the home, or virtually on a meeting platform. Jalea Walker, the Nation's COISSP Program Manager, stated that the grant is designed to expand the choices available to all Native American students and their families. Not only are we able to help Tolowa members, but all Native students and families in the service area.

Families will be given the opportunity to choose what services they need and what they believe will produce a better outcome of their child's academic success. The services provided will help all involved students and their families succeed in their educational and lifelong goals. Ms. Walker further shared, "We are excited to be able to serve all Native youth in the area, and bring lifelong knowledge to all students involved. To be able to bring better opportunities and help all Native students succeed in school and their daily lives is the goal we are all working towards in our program. I am excited about our program and the work we get to do for all of the youth involved. I will strive for the success of the program and all of the students involved."

The outcome of the grant and services is to improve school attendance, American Indian school success, family leadership, grades, and graduation rates. Native American Students and families of Native American children are invited to sign up for direct services. Further, if anyone is interested in signing up as a contractor or vendor to offer services to students, we encourage you to contact the Program Manager, Jalea Walker, at jalea.walker@tolowa.com or 707-487-9255 ext. 1550.