

INTEGRATING AN AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY INTO YOUR CURRENT OR NEW INITIATIVES

An Infographic From Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Central at IES

You may be thinking about how to better support American Indian students and engage the community, but where do you start? If you're currently using a needs assessment survey to identify your school's or district's strengths and challenges for students in general, where can you integrate questions that will help identify the unique needs of your American Indian students? Or if you're considering how to monitor your Johnson-O'Malley or Title VI funding, how do you know whether your programs are making a difference?

REL Central's Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment for American Indian Students is designed to help you conduct or adapt a needs assessment survey to better understand the strengths, challenges, and needs of schools serving American Indian students. Through the process of developing and analyzing the survey, you can also better understand the context and pressing issues for American Indian communities. The guide includes survey questions for teachers and administrators.

WHY USE THE QUESTIONS IN THIS GUIDE

The questions in this guide are ready to use, technically sound, and culturally appropriate. They cover a range of topics relevant to the needs of American Indian students and can be adapted with the community to fit different contexts.

The needs assessment process will help you:



Honor and respect the community by creating opportunities to have conversations.



Engage a range of teachers and administrators in understanding American Indian student needs.



Confirm your thinking, or uncover new information, about American Indian student needs.



Take action to refine existing efforts or develop new strategies to meet American Indian student needs.



Identify and celebrate the bright spots in your school or district.

HOW TO DEVELOP A SURVEY OR INTEGRATE THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS INTO YOUR CURRENT OR NEW INITIATIVES

State and local education agencies that are interested in developing a needs assessment survey or integrating questions from the guide should identify team members with experience in school improvement and American Indian education.

Additional information and resources that support each step of this process can be found in the **Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment for American Indian Students**.

Bring teachers, families, students, and tribal members together to help identify what you want to know about American Indian student needs.

1

Review the questions under your selected topics and choose the ones most likely to provide the information you are seeking. If necessary, adapt them to better fit your context.

3

Administer your survey, analyze the data, and report the results.

5

2

Review the needs assessment survey topics with the community and select the ones that align with what you want to know. Survey topics cover nine areas, from culturally responsive instruction to addressing equity and social-emotional health.

4

Develop your survey or add your selected questions to your current needs assessment. Make a plan for administering your survey.

6

Bring teachers, families, students, and tribal members together to co-interpret the results and develop plans for addressing identified needs.

AMERICAN INDIAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY TOPICS AND WHAT THEY MEASURE



Culturally responsive instruction

The degree to which classroom practices are inclusive of American Indian perspectives.



State-specific American Indian instruction

The inclusion of focused American Indian content (for example, Native wisdom and history) specified in statewide initiatives.



School climate

The degree to which a school's culture builds a sense of community, respect, and inclusion.



Equity

How schools promote equitable access to materials, resources, and instruction and provide a positive learning environment to all students.



Student attendance

The degree to which schools identify and remediate barriers to student attendance.



Bullying

How schools work to promote a safe learning environment.



Addressing social-emotional well-being

The degree to which schools employ practices to support students' social-emotional health.



Professional development

The identification and implementation of professional learning opportunities for educators serving American Indian students.



Teacher recruitment and retention (administrator survey only)

The degree to which schools serving American Indian students are implementing educator recruitment initiatives.

For the sample survey questions and information to support your data collection, analysis, and action plans, **download REL Central's Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment for American Indian Students:** <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=4649>