



# NIEA Legislative Priorities for 2011

## *Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*

### SUPPORT THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF NATIVE STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)

*Background:* The ESEA expired in 2007. The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress has indicated it's plans to advance ESEA reauthorization legislation and President Obama has stated that education reform is a top priority. NIEA urges that ESEA support the use of Native languages, culture and history as a means to better reach and teach Native students.

#### NIEA's key priorities for the reauthorization of ESEA include:

- **Improving and Expanding Title VII to Address the Unique Cultural and Educational Needs of Native Children:** Title VII ESEA recognizes that Native children have unique educational needs due to their cultures and backgrounds. Please provide stories describing how Title VII benefits your students.
- **Improving Cooperation Among Tribes, States, and the Federal Government:** It would be helpful to describe why it is important for your tribe or Native parents to be involved in the education of your children and why it is important to strengthen this as part of the reauthorization effort.
- **Strengthening ESEA to Provide Support for Instruction in Native American Languages:** Please describe why it is so important that schools include a culturally-based education that includes classes in language and culture.
- **Improving Support for Teachers of Native Students:** Please provide stories on the challenges that your teachers face and challenges of the community in recruiting and maintaining high quality teachers in your schools. Also, please explain any barriers that your community is experiencing in making sure elders and other traditional leaders may teach in your schools.
- **Improving Opportunities for Parents, Families, and Tribes and other Native Communities to Participate in the Education of Native Children:** Please describe challenges that your parents, families, tribes, and communities face in being included in the education of your children and whether you experience difficulties interacting with state or local educational officials when setting achievement standards, developing curriculum, creating assessment tools and meeting the needs of your Native children.
- **Improving the Measurement System for Adequate Yearly Progress:** Please describe any challenges that your schools face in meeting annual yearly progress. Talk about how these categories are implemented and how they make you or your children feel.
- **Requiring the Collection of Data and Research on the Education of Native Children:** More research needs to be done documenting the benefits of culturally-based education and the role of Native languages in boosting the academic achievement for Native students.
- **Increasing Funding for ESEA, especially Title VII:** If possible, provide stories on the challenges created by lack of funding. These days, we keep hearing that it doesn't make sense to throw money at the problem. However, in Native communities lack of money is often the root of many of the problems.