

Native Education State Profiles

Tennessee



Report Summary

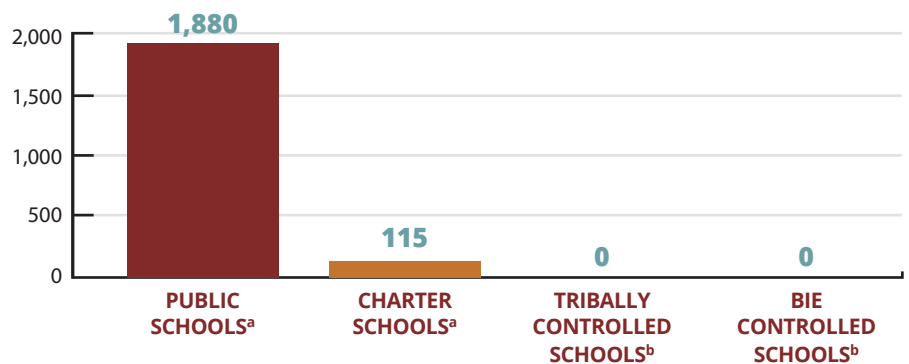
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides tribes and states an important opportunity to advance tribal sovereignty and create positive and inclusive learning environments for Native students. Schools and Native communities must collaborate to ensure students are college, career, and community ready. As the only national organization advocating for improved educational opportunities for Native students, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) supports and builds partnerships between Native and allied stakeholders that provide opportunities for Native students to thrive in the classroom and beyond. This state profile is available to NIEA membership, tribal leadership, educators, and allies to provide important information and highlight available resources that may be of assistance in advocacy work.

State Leadership

Bill Lee <i>Governor</i>	The Governor appoints the State Board of Education and the Education Commissioner.
Lizzette Reynolds <i>Education Commissioner</i>	The Education Commissioner is appointed by the governor.
Sally Wells <i>Native American Indian Association of Tennessee, President</i>	NAIA is the primary state organization for advocacy on Native education issues.

District Snapshot

Number of School Districts: 148^a



Where Do Native Students Attend School?^c



PUBLIC
1,396
students

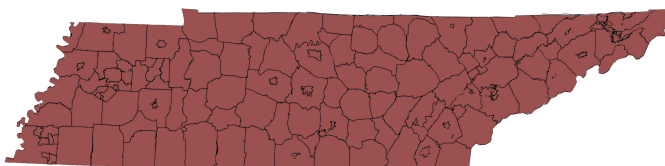


CHARTER
53
students



BIE FUNDED
0
students

Tennessee School Districts



	Student Enrollment ^c	Student Enrollment ^c
Native	1,452	0.1%
Total	985,207	100%

Federally Recognized Tribes

There are no federally recognized tribes in Tennessee. However, there are tribal lands very close to the border of Tennessee, including the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina.



Tennessee Native Education Legislation

1984

The Tennessee legislature creates the Commission of Indian Affairs, which existed until 2001 and again from 2004 until 2010 when the legislation expired.

1994

Tennessee extends scholarship opportunities in the University of Tennessee system to American Indians.

1994

Tennessee declares American Indian Day, and the state Department of Education is required to distribute information about the history of American Indians prior to its celebration.

2018

The Department of Education approves the Tennessee state plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act.

2022

Tennessee updates their public school funding formula so that more funds are allocated to economically disadvantaged and rural districts.

Equal Opportunities

National Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools ^c	24	3	2	9	1
Students with Disabilities ^d	15	15	13	12	7
Children in Poverty ^e	31	32	26	11	11
Full-Time Teachers ^f	0.5	7	9	79	2
High School Graduation Rate ^g	74	80	82	89	93

Tennessee Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools ^c	11	3	3	12	2
Students with Disabilities ^d	12	13	11	10	6
Children in Poverty ^e	29	37	33	14	9
Full-Time Teachers ^h	0.1	11	1	84	0.4
High School Graduation Rate ^g	90	85	84	93	95

Engage

ESSA Working Groups

Find out more about how Tennessee is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its work on accountability, assessment, teacher quality, English learner, and school improvement.

Website: www.tn.gov/education/essa.html

Phone: (615) 741-2966

Tennessee Student Profile

Young Childrenⁱ

15%

of the American Indian & Alaska Native population is under the age of 18.

4%

of American Indian and Alaska Natives in Tennessee are under the age of 5.

Higher Education

0

Tribal Colleges serve Native students in Tennessee.^j

18%

of American Indians and Alaska Natives* in Tennessee have a Bachelors degree or higher.^k

Connectivity^l

9%

of American Indian and Alaska Natives in Tennessee do not have access to a personal computer.

13%

of American Indian and Alaska Natives in Tennessee do not have a broadband Internet subscription.

Percent of Students Proficient in...^m

	English Language Arts	Mathematics
Tennessee Native	38	39
Tennessee	35	37
Tennessee White	42	44

Sources

- a. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a;
- b. "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2020-21 v.1a.
- c. BIE 2022, <https://www.bie.edu/schools/directory>.
- d. NCES, CCD, "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a.
- e. US Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), Tables B14007B, C, D, E, H, and I; US Department of Education, EDData Data Warehouse: "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection," 2020-21. From file specifications 002 and 089.
- f. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Tables B17001B, C, D, E, H, and I.
- g. NCES, National Teacher and Principal Survey, "Public School Teacher Data File," 2017-18.
- h. NCES, EDData file 150, Data Group 695, and EDData file 151, Data Group 696, 2013-14 through 2018-19.
- i. Tennessee Department of Education, Data Downloads and Requests, 2020, <https://www.tn.gov/education/data/data-downloads.html>.
- j. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B01001C.
- k. NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2019, Table 312.50.
- l. US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS Selected Population Detailed Tables, Table B15002.
- m. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table S2802.
- n. Tennessee Department of Education, 2019 Report Card Data, <https://www.tn.gov/education/data/data-downloads.html>.

*Indicates that the measure includes multiracial AI/ANs.

