



Elevating Native Priorities through Effective Advocacy

National Indian Education Association



The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is the nation's largest and most inclusive organization advocating for comprehensive culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

Background

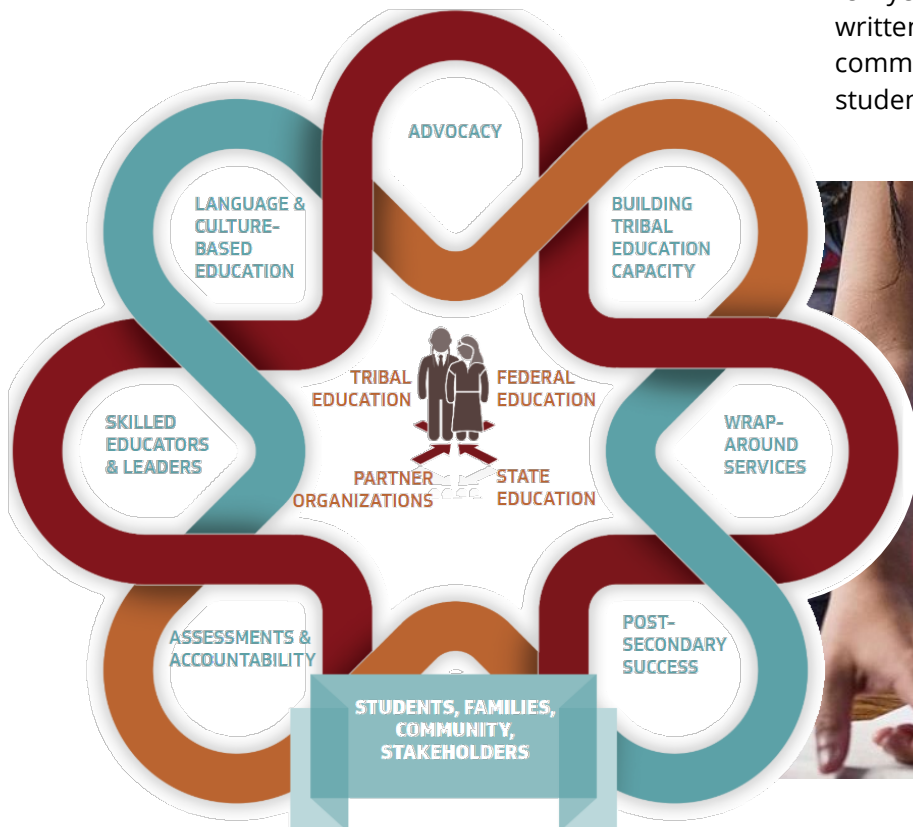
Through over 50 years of advocacy for Native education, NIEA has engaged with Native leaders and educators to exercise sovereignty in the education of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children and communities. These key discussions have led to critical changes in education policy, improving the schools and systems serving Native students, their families, and the wider community. Self-determination in education systems in Native communities forms the foundation of our work at NIEA. Our advocacy seeks to reflect the priorities of Native students and communities across the nation, with self-determination at the center of our federal work.

Strategic Plan

NIEA's advocacy priorities are driven by our Strategic Direction, which envisions NIEA as a national convening organization that advocates for Native students at the state, tribal, and federal levels. Developed through member engagement and direction, this document provides the foundation for our work as an organization.

National Voice for Native Education

NIEA serves as a national voice for Native education, representing our students, educators, and Native communities through our work with Congress and the Administration. Over the past few years, we have submitted numerous oral and written testimony before Congress in addition to comments on issues that impact our schools and students at various federal agencies.





Engaging Native Education Advocates

NIEA provides Native citizens, educators, and allies the opportunity to engage with members of Congress in support of Native education. Through these engagements, NIEA members can showcase the work they are doing for Native students and highlight the impact of federal legislation on Native education within their local communities.

Advocacy Resources

NIEA supports Native leadership, educators, and students with timely, relevant information on effective advocacy for Native education. From advocacy trainings and technical assistance to webinars and factsheets, NIEA stands ready to ensure that our advocates have the resources needed. Each of our documents is tailored to focus on the current needs and climate, from our recent work on COVID-19 to our ongoing work to support tribal consultation in the Every Student Succeeds Act. Our resources include, but are not limited to, the following:

- NIEA Hill Day
- Native Education Advocacy Toolkit
- Action Alerts
- Webinars
- Monthly Policy Newsletter
- Fact sheets and guides

Advocacy through Strong Partners

NIEA partners with national, regional, tribal, state, and local organizations who further our mission. From our work with Native organizations to engaging in broader education and civil rights coalitions, we strive to elevate Native education priorities at the national level and to provide Native students and educators with the information needed to be successful. We are constantly seeking out new opportunities to leverage our shared strengths to advance educational opportunity for all students, including Native students.

All photographs of NIEA Hill Day 2020 taken by Jati Lindsay, NEA.



“Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future”

Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-1995)

