

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0076

American Indian education program.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Allen, Barlow, Blackburn,
Blake, Connolly and Larsen and Senator(s)
Case and Ellis

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public education; recognizing the
2 importance of preserving the heritage and contributions of
3 American Indian tribes through education; providing
4 legislative findings in relation to this education;
5 requiring school districts to provide an educational
6 program to students related to American Indian tribes;
7 imposing requirements on the state board of education and
8 the department of education; and providing for an effective
9 date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

13 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-4-602 is created to read:

14

15

ARTICLE 6

1 AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2

3 **21-4-602. American Indian educational program.**

4

5 (a) The legislature recognizes the cultural heritage
6 and contemporary contributions of American Indians and
7 declares that the state's policy is to preserve that
8 heritage and contributions through education. It is
9 therefore the intent of the legislature that all students,
10 teachers and other school personnel have an understanding
11 and awareness of American Indian tribes, with particular
12 emphasis on the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho
13 Indian tribes, to better understand and appreciate American
14 Indians and to enhance communications with American Indian
15 students and parents.

16

17 (b) The state board through the department of
18 education shall, in cooperation with the Eastern Shoshone
19 and Northern Arapaho Indian tribes, evaluate and review
20 existing state content and performance standards to ensure
21 the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of
22 American Indians, with particular emphasis on the Eastern

1 Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Indian tribes, are
2 addressed in the Wyoming content and performance standards.

3
4 (c) The department shall, subject to the approval of
5 the respective Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian
6 tribe, make available materials and resources on the
7 department's official web site to assist school districts
8 in meeting benchmarks within Wyoming content and
9 performance standards relating to the study of American
10 Indian tribes.

11
12 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-9-101 by creating a new subsection
13 (h) is amended to read:

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15 **21-9-101. Educational programs for schools;**
16 **standards; core of knowledge and skills; special needs**
17 **programs; class size requirements; cocurricular activities.**

18
19 (h) Following the review of standards pursuant to
20 W.S. 21-4-602(b) and in addition to subsections (b) through
21 (d) of this section, each school district within the state
22 shall provide an educational program addressing the
23 cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of

1 American Indian tribes, with particular emphasis on the
2 Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian tribes, within
3 one (1) full school year following content standards
4 revision and adoption.

5

6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

10

11 (END)