Indigenous Insighter

MCPS Native American Student Services Department Newsletter. September 2023

# MCPS NASS Collecting 506 Forms

MCPS Native American Student Services is currently collecting 506 Forms. One of the NASS Specialists might be contact you if we are missing the form for your child.

What is a 506 Form?

The 506 Form is formally called the ‘ED 506 Form: Indian Student Eligibility Certification Form for Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant Program.’ The form is an official record of eligibility for Native American children to be included in the Native American student count for Missoula County Public Schools.

Is the 506 Form required?

You are not required to submit a form. When you choose to complete a form for your student they are counted for funding through the Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant. Without the completed form we are not able to include your child in the official Native American student count for Missoula County Public Schools.

How does the 506 Form impact my student?

MCPS NASS capacity and programming is determined each year in part by the official Native American student count.

Funding through the Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant Program pays for programming to provide academic and cultural support for Native American students.

My child isn’t an enrolled tribal member. Can I still submit the form?

Yes! The 506 Form can be completed using the tribal enrollment number of the student’s parent or grandparent. If your child is not an enrolled tribal member or a 1st or 2nd degree descendent they are not eligible to be counted in the official Native American student count for the Title VI Indian Education Grant. However, they will still be welcomed and supported by the MCPS Native American Student Services team!

For more information please contact Billie Jo Juneau, NASS Coordinator, at bjuneau@mcpsmt.org or 406-728-2400 ext. 1063

# American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance

All Nations Health Center in collaboration with MCPS Native American Student Services present a community celebration in honor of the September 22, 2023 American Indian Heritage Day. There will be social dancing contests as well as a community feed. Friday, September 22, 2023. Community Feed at 5pm. Round Dance begins at 6pm. CS Porter Middle School.

# 2022-2023 MCPS Native American Student Services Calendar

* American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance. Friday, September 22, 2023. 5-10pm. CS Porter Middle School
* American Indian Heritage Day. September 22nd (Montana Schools)
* American Indian Heritage Day. September 25th (All of Montana)
* Orange Shirt Day - National Day of Remembrance. October 30th (US/Canada)
* Halloween Carnival. Monday, October 30th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Franklin Elementary School.
* Native American Heritage Month. November (US).
* Rock Your Mocs Day. November 15, 2023.
* Sewing Class: Ribbon Skirts & Shirts. November 6, 13, 20, 27th. 5:00pm to 8:00pm. MCPS Admin Building B.
* Winter Storytelling. December 13 & 20th. 5:00pm to 8:00pm. MCPS Admin Building B.
* Ledger Art Class. January 17th. 5:00pm to 8:00pm. MCPS Admin Building B.
* Native Love Sock Hop. February 21st. 5:00pm to 8:00pm.
* Naming Ceremony. March 29th. 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Willard High School.
* Native Youth Powwow. Saturday, April 27, 2024. Grand Entry at 12pm and 6pm at Sentinel High School.
* Native Grad Senior Dinner. Wednesday, May 8, 2024. 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Missoula Fairgrounds.
* Title VI Public Hearing. Date and location to be announced.
* End of Year BBQ. Wednesday, June 5th, 2024. 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

# MCPS Native American Student Services Seeks Nominations for Parent Advisory Committee

Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) Native American Student Services is excited to announce that we are seeking nominations for our Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). This committee plays a vital role in supporting and enhancing the educational experiences of Native American students within the MCPS community.

MCPS Native American Student Services values the importance of our Native American students and their families, as well as the expertise of our dedicated teachers. The Parent Advisory Committee is a crucial platform to ensure that we are meeting the unique needs of our Native American students and fostering a culturally inclusive environment.

Wilena Old Person, MCPS School Board Chair, expressed the importance of this committee: “As a parent I chose to work within a system to change it, many choose how they want to change the world for the betterment of their kids, this is how I am. I believe in individual impact. Being part of the PAC is a way we as Native Parents can have a voice for safer, more inclusive schools for our kids.”

Parents and guardians of Native American students, Native American high school students, and MCPS teachers are eligible to serve on the committee. MCPS Native American Student Services encourages all eligible individuals to consider participating in the Parent Advisory Committee and helping to shape the future of Native American Student Services programming and support within MCPS.

Key information:

* Eligibility:
	+ Parents/guardians of Native American students enrolled in MCPS schools,
	+ Native American high school students enrolled in an MCPS school,
	+ MCPS teachers (can be Native or non-Native)
* PAC meetings are held in person on the first Wednesday of each month
* Members serve 2 year terms
* Nomination Deadline: September 29, 2023
* PAC Election: October 4, 2023

For more information and to submit nominations, please visit <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/6728>