

INDIAN EDUCATION
MONTANA SHOWS the WAY!

Article X of the Montana Constitution

Education and Public Lands (1972)

Section 1

(1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

Indian Education for All (1999)

MCA 20-1-501

Every Montanan, whether Indian or non-Indian, shall be encouraged to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive manner. Every educational agency and all educational personnel will work cooperatively with Montana tribes ... when providing instruction and implementing an educational goal.

The definition of a quality education now includes language specific for Indian content under **Mont. Code Ann. sec. 20-9-309**

A "basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools" means:

(c) educational programs to implement the provisions of Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana constitution and Title 20, chapter 1, part 5, through development of curricula designed to integrate the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians into the curricula, with particular emphasis on Montana Indians.

Material & citations kindly provided by

Mike Jetty

Indian Education Specialist

Montana Office of Public Instruction

mjetty@mt.gov ... Ph: (406) 444-0720 ... www.opi.mt.gov

For more information: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>

WHAT IS YOUR STATE DOING ABOUT INDIAN EDUCATION?