

Maine Indian Education

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Commission on Native Children Eastern Region Hearing





Who We are

- Serving the Wabanaki, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot Nation
- There are Tribally Controlled Schools working directly under the Tribal Government. Maine Indian Education Schools are considered as Bureau of Indian Education Grant Schools.
- Three Schools, Grades PK-8. Three School Committees and One Maine Indian Education Joint Board.
- The Maine Indian Education Office is located in Calais, Maine. The building is called Wabanaki Culture Center and houses the Maine Tourism Office as well as the Beautiful Wabanaki Museum and Conference Room named after Senator Susan Collins.

Maine Indian Education Instructional Vision

We are creating “**Communities Committed to Learning, through Rigor, Relevancy, and Relationship**” where children and adults, individually and collectively, are continually increasing their capacity to reach shared goals.

Some of our key activities and partnerships listed below were focused on our key system-wide goals of Wabanaki Studies, Blended Learning, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Response to Intervention, both under the umbrella of a Multi-tiered System of Supports. We are developing our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) because every child requires a more personalized system of support.

Maine Indian Education Instructional Vision

- **Rigor** is not about being more difficult but rather challenging, innovative, and fun.
- **Relevancy:** We have a personalized curriculum that would integrate our culture, language, heritage, and the individual's passion and dreams to build a road map to success. Our definition of success is not to have all college graduates but rather identify after middle school if a student wants to be a Carpenter, Electrician, Artist, Engineer, or if just not know. We follow every student's emotional and academic progress and provide Respond to Intervention or RTI more targeted to help the student be successful in their journey.
- **Relationship:** We build on our heritage of "Culture Keepers" our elders, and mentors and have appropriate guidance counselors and an emotional connection between a child and an adult. This is done through advisors and advisees and more meetings to discuss our students than other stuff.

Some Highlights of our work

- Securing three electric Busses using the Federal Grant through EPA and three Charging Stations at Sipayik Elementary School
- Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures (RREV). A one-time funding award of \$250,000 from Maine's Department of Education for our RREV Pilot Project.
- We're designing new programming for middle school students for the 2022-23 school year that includes: immersive project-based experiences, daily activities focused on language and culture, and real-world learning. Each hands-on module will be structured into eight-week periods with one full school day every two weeks dedicated to programming. Students will have a voice and choice regarding their learning pathways.

Some Highlights of our work

- Investing in a long-term relationship with WaYS (Wabanaki Youth in Science) and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to center Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in units of study while also recognizing the contributions of western science.
- The implementation of ***WeCare (behavioral health services)*** to provide 24 hours and 365 days of behavioral support to our staff, students, and parents to address the impact of the Pandemic and the rise in cases of depression, substance use disorder, and other behavioral health needs. <https://helpwhereyouare.com>

Passamaquoddy Sipayik Elementary School



Passamaquoddy Indian Township School



Passamaquoddy Indian Township School



Passamaquoddy Indian Township Child Care

Penobscot Indian Island School



Some Student Artworks at the Maine Indian Education



Rainbow Fish. ITS. Kindergarten



Sunset Over Passamaquoddy Bay. SES.Gr. 8



Galaxy Mind. SES. Gr. 6



Heart Full of Love, ITS, Grade 3



Summer Waves, ITS, Kindergarten



Passamaquoddy Fish. SES. Gr. 8