

# NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION STUDY



The National Indian Education Study is designed to describe the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. This federally funded study is a collaborative effort to ensure that programs that serve American Indian and Alaska Native children are of the highest quality and meet their unique educational and culturally related needs.

The goal of the National Indian Education Study (NIES) is to collect information on academic achievement and educational experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in order to understand and address their academic challenges. The results from the NIES are used in congressional testimony and serve as a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of existing Native American programs. In addition, this ongoing study provides information on how AI/AN students progress in mathematics and reading over time.

The NIES, which is conducted in two parts, focuses on fourth- and eighth-grade students across the country. The study is designed to report results for the nation and for states that have relatively large populations of AI/AN students, and by school types and locations. The NIES provides information to help states, schools, and parents develop educational programs for AI/AN students, while respecting and honoring their distinct languages, cultures, and traditions. The educational programs ensure that AI/AN students meet the same challenging academic achievement standards as all other students across the country.

## PART I

Part I of the study consists of the mathematics and reading portions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is administered to students nationwide. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and in some cases, urban districts. NCES-contracted field staff coordinate with individual schools to schedule and administer the 90-minute assessment. As the federal government continues to develop programs to serve students in Native communities, results from the NIES, which is administered every two years, will assist in monitoring the progress of academic achievement.

## PART II

Part II of the study is an Indian Education Survey, which asks AI/AN students, their teachers, and school principals about the inclusion of Native languages and cultural perspectives in the curriculum and about interactions between the school and the AI/AN community. The survey is administered immediately following the NAEP assessment. On average, it takes students up to 20 minutes to complete the survey; teachers and principals may need slightly longer. Data from the NIES 2011 questionnaires used in Part II will provide an understanding of the ways that cultural influences can affect the educational experiences of AI/AN students.



## BACKGROUND

The NIES is conducted as a part of NAEP, which was expanded to allow for more in-depth reporting on the achievement and experiences of AI/AN students. The NIES fulfills a mandate under Executive Order 13336 signed in 2004 to assist AI/AN students in meeting the challenging academic standards set forth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorized in 2001 (Public Law 107-110) in a manner consistent with tribal languages, cultures and traditions. The NIES is conducted by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences, at the request of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Indian Education (OIE) within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE). The study is also supported by the Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of the Interior.

## SCHEDULE

### May - August 2010

Selected schools are asked to participate, a date is reserved for early 2011, and a school coordinator is appointed.

### September - October 2010

School coordinators complete the fourth and eighth grade student information materials and arrange logistics for conducting the assessment.

### January - March 2011

Experienced field staff visit the schools to administer the NAEP assessment (NIES Part I) and the survey (NIES Part II).

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

NIES Information Line	1-888-747-4994
NIES website	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies</a>
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/</a>
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov">http://nces.ed.gov</a>
Office of Indian Education (OIE)	<a href="http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html">http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html</a>

NIES 2011 Part I and Part II results will be available in Summer 2012  
Results for both parts of the study can be found on the National Indian Education Study website and through the  
NAEP Data Explorer: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.

