

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMERICAN INDIAN**
2 **AND ALASKAN NATIVE EDUCATION STATE PLAN**

3 2016 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5
6 **LONG TITLE**

7 **General Description:**

8 This concurrent resolution supports the creation of an American Indian and Alaskan
9 Native Education State Plan.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This resolution:

- 12 ▶ supports eliminating the achievement gap for American Indian and Alaskan Native
- 13 students;
- 14 ▶ outlines the need for a state plan;
- 15 ▶ provides for the state plan; and
- 16 ▶ provides for distribution of the resolution.

17 **Special Clauses:**

18 None

19
20 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

21 WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaskan Native students are an important asset to the
22 state's public school system;

23 WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaskan Native students can meet the high
24 expectations of any student within the state's public school system;

25 WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaskan Native students as a group are consistently
26 scoring low on measures of educational achievement;

27 WHEREAS, an American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Commission was formed
28 to develop a state plan to address this educational achievement gap; and

29 WHEREAS, the American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Commission developed a
30 state plan subject to review by the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee and the
31 final approval of the State Board of Education:

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
33 Governor concurring therein, expresses support for eliminating the achievement gap for
34 American Indian and Alaskan Native students within the state's public school system.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state eliminate the achievement gap through a
36 state plan that consists of a pilot program implemented through statute and implementation of
37 the resolution statements of this concurrent resolution.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education and local education
39 agencies:

40 (1) build administrative support within the public school system for high expectations
41 of American Indian and Alaskan Native students;

42 (2) work to strengthen tribal support for state initiatives to reach American Indian and
43 Alaskan Native students, including the development and enhancement of curriculum that is
44 historically and culturally accurate and sensitive and fosters the protection of heritage
45 languages;

46 (3) work cooperatively with tribal governments to address sharing of education
47 information regarding American Indian and Alaskan Native students, subject to the
48 confidentiality restrictions imposed under federal law;

49 (4) increase parental, school personnel, and community support for programs that foster
50 educational achievement by American Indian and Alaskan Native students; and

51 (5) build statewide collaborations to address, and create statewide awareness of, the
52 needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native children, including understanding of social,
53 cultural, and holistic educational needs and the role of tribal sovereignty.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this concurrent resolution be sent to the
55 State Board of Education, the executive and legislative leaders of the eight tribes within Utah,
56 and the American Indian-Alaskan Native Public Education Liaison.