

Wisconsin Indian Education Act (Act 31) Study Issue

The Tribal Members of the State Tribal Relations Committee are recommending that the STRC consider the following:

1989 Wisconsin Act 31 placed certain requirements on school district and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to educate Wisconsin students on tribal history, culture, and sovereignty. The Act is now 27 years old and during that time the Act has not been reviewed by the State Legislature.

The STRC should review the current law and in that review it should consider the following:

1. Does the existing law need to be updated or expanded and where appropriate, recommend statutory and/or administrative changes?
2. DPI, working in consultation of tribal education leaders, should be directed to develop a plan to further implement both the current requirements and any additional requirements within 6 months of the legislation being signed into law. The plan will be delivered to the education committees of both houses of the state legislature.
3. Require that any statewide standardized student tests include questions on Wisconsin tribal history, culture, and sovereignty.
4. The recommendations of the 2014 DPI Wisconsin Education Act 31 Administrator and Teacher Survey Report.
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/amind/pdf/2014-act31surveyreport.pdf>
5. Renaming Act 31 as the Wisconsin Indian Education Act (WIEA) or the Indian Education Act of Wisconsin (IEAW).