

Northland Community Schools

Independent School District #118



School Board Report

Date April 7, 2026

Report Submitted by: L. Monroe-Indian Education

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT: *To educate and inspire all learners to reach their full potential.*

Celebrations:

- Federal reporting requirements have been completed and accepted for this year's Title VI part II of the EASIE report.
- The Northland Eagles drum group and/or dance troupe were requested to sing for the following places since our last report: the Bugonaygeshig school round dance, the Bugonaygeshig school royalty powwow, the TrekNorth school powwow, the Bemidji TBTN program event.
- Ojibwe Language Quiz Bowl; Congratulations to the quiz bowl team on winning 1st place at the Fond Du Lac School competition and 1st place in the Minnesota Indian Education Association competition this past month!
- The Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference is held annually. This year was March 18th-20th, 2026. There are teacher, administration, school board, and staff workshops, youth workshops and an MIEA powwow along with both Ojibwe and Dakota language quiz bowls during the week of the conference.
- Congratulations to Danica Heinle and Landon Monroe for their accomplishments at the MIEA conference powwow! Both becoming the 2nd runner up as the Powwow ambassadors!
- Request overnight stay for April 30th for the International Falls Quiz Bowl Competition and May 14th for the Jack Briggs Quiz Bowl in Cloquet.

Miigwech. Thank you.

Northland Community Schools Indian Education Program Overview

- Indian Education Act of 1972; The Indian Education legislation is unique in the following ways:
 - It recognizes that American Indians have unique, educational and culturally related academic needs and distinct language and cultural needs;
 - It is the only comprehensive Federal Indian Education legislation, that deals with American Indian education from preschool to graduate-level education and reflects the diversity of government involvement in Indian education;
 - It focuses national attention on the educational needs of American Indian learners, reaffirming the Federal government's special responsibility related to the education of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
 - It provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives that are not provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- The Minnesota Department of Education – Office of Indian Education is committed to supporting districts and schools to ensure that every American Indian student in the state has equitable access to programs that are specifically designed to meet their unique educational or cultural academic needs.
- ISD #118 Indian Education office consists of three staff members.
 1. The Indian Education Director/IHSL
 2. The transition/cultural assistant/IHSL
 3. The Title VI tutor/cultural assistant/IHSL
- **Indian Home School Liaison (IHSL)**-American Indian Home/School Liaisons (IHSL) are employed by Minnesota districts to enhance communication between schools and the families of American Indian students that have disabilities or that are in the process of being evaluated for special education. IHSL helps to assure that American Indian families understand their due process rights and that school personnel understand cultural and linguistic differences that may affect students. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provides professional development to IHSL; data analysis has shown that districts whose liaisons participate in professional development offerings have less disproportionate representation in special education than comparable districts that do not participate.
- **Student Interaction/Tutoring**-Interaction between Indian Education Staff and students throughout school hours and after-school activities. Tutoring in the classroom and in the resource room during school hours.
- **Anishinaabe Quiz Bowl**-quiz bowl consists of school teams that compete in tournaments hosted by other schools. Students compete in knowledge of language/history/and culture. Practice is held all year; every week, during or after school. Students are required to attend

90% of practices held before each competition along with passing scores on language/history/and culture quizzes given before competitions.

- **Drum & Dance Troupe-**
 - Dance troupe-teaching lessons on traditional dance. Throughout the year, students compete and exhibition for schools and venues in MN. Students gain experience and knowledge in powwow etiquette through these exhibitions and competitions.
 - Drum-practice is held weekly at the end of the school day and/or after school which is available to students in grades 3-12. Zhaabawe (girls back up singing) is also held weekly. Zhaabawe is available to students in grades 7 -12th grade.
 - The Northland Community Schools Drum & Dance competition is held once a year where schools across MN come to compete.
 - The Northland Community Schools Annual Powwow is held once a year during the school day to educate and celebrate as a community.
 - The Northland Community Schools Round Dance is held once a year after school to educate and celebrate as a community.
- **Ojibwe Language & Culture Lessons-** Elem education is throughout the year with shared resources and materials in elem classes and classrooms. High School Ojibwe level 1, 2 and Introduction classes are electives, and are held everyday.
- **Classroom Curriculum:** we work continuously with staff on enhancing curriculums with language and culture. We try to bring in cultural presenters who can assist staff with cultural lesson planning during classes with students when requested.
- **Cultural Awareness-** Throughout the year we hold cultural awareness events and activities, such as after school outfit making, moccasin making, crafts, feasts-teaching cultural etiquette and formalities, community education, presentations etc. (dates vary-please see monthly calendar for dates).
- **Clubs/organizations-online:** Along with drum, dance, and Ojibwe quiz bowl, students can also join other leadership clubs and organizations Indian Education sponsors or collaborates with, such as;
 - **Ogichidaa Club**
 - **Native American Youth Alliance (UNITY)**
 - **Lacrosse**