



UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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For the Preservation of Utah Native Languages

Native language instruction is crucial to optimize a student's success in schools. The development of a student's first language facilitates the development in a second language. In other words, it is far easier to learn a second language when students already have a strong foundation in their first language. American Indian communities in the United States or in small Tribal communities in parts of the US, Native languages are dying at an alarming rate. The long-term effects of colonization and assimilation have ridden many communities of their Native language, and unfortunately socioeconomic circumstances today have not made the task of resurrecting such languages any easier.

In Native communities where the culture and Native language are endangered, teaching children their Native language, will help protect and restore their dying languages. Younger learners develop new language abilities more quickly than adults. The American Indian communities around the country, who have suffered at the hands of colonialism, continue to face several hardships including but not limited to unemployment, substance abuse, mental health issues, etc. Many of these issues stem from a loss of identity, culture, and language that were shunned for years. By teaching Native children their Native language, a sense of identity and belonging is being instilled, simultaneously teaching them to accept and be proud of their heritage and upbringing.

Many children lack interest in their education because they are missing some degree of personal connection to things they are learning. By introducing them to their Native language and perhaps even instructing them in their Native language, these children may find a personal connection with their education. This connection can harness itself to a greater appreciation for one's culture and education to develop a positive relationship with the current education system and the education system of the past.



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Process

The candidate who is pursuing the protocol of teaching an American Indian language course(s) in Utah will be accompanied by the Tribe's recommendation and supported by the Licensure Department at the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). The Tribe will internally evaluate and process the candidate's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and recommend their abilities to the Utah State Board of Education. These skills will be internally evaluated by the Tribe's Education and Cultural Department for confirmation of the candidate's competency and proficiency in the language. This recommendation will be sent to the Utah State Board of Education Licensure Department for confirmation and placed in the applicant's file as one competent to teach in their Native Language. The applicant will also adhere to the fingerprinting process, background check, and other security measures set forth by the Utah State Board of Education.

1. Confederated Tribes of Goshute
2. Skull Valley Band of Goshute
3. Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
4. San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
5. Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation
6. Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
7. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
8. White Mesa Community
9. Navajo Nation

August 2021

Dickson, Sydnee

Digitally signed by Dickson,
Sydnee
Date: 2021.08.05 15:50:20 -0600

Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction