National Indian Education Study

NIES 2009

The National Indian Education Study describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. NIES was initially conducted in 2005, then again in 2007, and the National Center for Education Statistics, on behalf of the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education, will conduct the study again in the winter of 2009.

NIES is designed to assist policymakers and educators in making informed decisions as they work to improve the educational experiences of all American Indian and Alaska Native students. The results from NIES have already been used in congressional testimony and serve as a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of existing programs. The addition of data from NIES 2009 will strengthen the study and enhance its impact on decisions affecting the education of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The study is conducted in two parts, which focus on the academic achievement and educational experiences of fourth and eighth grade students across the country. The national sample includes students from both public and nonpublic schools that have both large and small American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) student populations.

Part I

Part I of the study consists of the reading and mathematics portions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is regularly administered to thousands of students across the nation. Trained field staff coordinate with individual schools to schedule and conduct the 90-minute assessment.

The results of Part I of the initial NIES set a baseline for the reading and mathematics performance of fourth and eighth grade AI/AN students in the 21st century. As the federal government continues to develop programs to serve students in native communities, results from NIES 2007 and 2009 will assist in monitoring the progress of academic achievement.

Part II

Part II of the study is the Indian Education Survey, which is administered to AI/AN students, their teachers, and school principals. The survey asks about (1) the inclusion of native languages and cultural perspectives in the curriculum, and (2) interactions between the school and the native communities. Students need 15-20 minutes to complete the survey; teachers and principals need slightly longer. The survey is administered immediately following the NAEP assessment.

The data from the NIES 2009 questionnaires used in Part II provide an understanding of the ways that cultural influences can affect the educational experiences of AI/AN students.

ies NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS
Institute of Education Sciences

NIES is sponsored by the Office of Indian Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

NCES 2008-485

U.S. Department of Education

History of the Study

The study is part of the federal government's efforts to fulfill its responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people, with respect to the education of their children.

In 1991, the report from the Indian Nations at Risk Task Force of the U.S. Department of Education called for research-based strategies for addressing educational needs. It presented a comprehensive set of recommendations to address the complex challenge of improving the educational system for AI/AN students, as well as their schools, towards the end of the 20th century.

In 2004, an executive order signed by the president asked for the establishment of an Interagency Working Group on AI/AN Education. The order also called for a study and report on the current status of AI/AN students, including compilation of comprehensive data on the academic achievement and progress of this group.

The National Indian Education Study was designed in consultation with a Technical Review Panel. Members include American Indian and Alaska Native educators and researchers from across the country. It is the collaborative efforts among Indian tribes and organizations, the Bureau of Indian Education, and state and local education agencies to ensure that AI/AN students are receiving a quality education that meets their unique cultural needs.

NIES 2009 Schedule

May – August, 2008

Selected schools are asked to participate, a date is reserved for early 2009, and a school coordinator is appointed.

September – October, 2008

School coordinators complete the 4th and 8th grade student information materials and arrange logistics for conducting the assessment.

January – March, 2009

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

Where Can I Get More Information?

NIES Information Line	1-800-592-0483
NIES website	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)	http://nces.ed.gov
Office of Indian Education (OIE)	http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html

NIES 2009 Part I results will be available in spring 2010.
NIES 2009 Part II results will be available in summer 2010.
Results for both parts of the NIES study can be found on the National Indian Education Study website.