

College, Career & Life **READY**



2014 South Dakota Graduation Rate

All students:
82.74%

Native American students:
46.98%



Goal: Increase the academic success of Native American students.

Strategy:

Professional development for teachers and principals

Support educators to improve instructional practices and enhance longevity.

“WoLakota” implies balance and coming together. The WoLakota Project is meant to support students in high-need schools by pairing trained mentor-teachers with new teachers and providing Courage to Teach circles to tend to the “hearts” of each.



Strategy:

Student development

Raise student awareness of opportunities for college and careers.

Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) is a program for students who are at risk of dropping out.

JAG Model Components:

- Classroom instruction
- Adult mentoring
- Summer employment training
- 12-month follow-up services
- Job and postsecondary education placement services
- Competency-based curriculums
- Advisement and support
- Student-led leadership development
- Accountability system

The JAG Model is cost-effective with a cost per participant that can be recovered in taxes paid in only

14 months

of full-time employment.

(Source: 2013 JAG Annual Report)

JAG Participation

School Year	# of schools	# of students	# of 12th grade students	Graduation Rate
2012-13	3	63	11	100%
2013-14	5	88	16	99%
2014-15	6	134	23	NA

Strategy:

Oceti Sakowin standards

Integrate language and culture in the classroom.

The Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings come to life in powerful videos of elders featured on wolakotaproject.org.

“Grandchildren, today I come and I want to share some stories with you, so that these stories will never die. These stories are going to be yours, your responsibility to carry on for the next generation.”

- Duane Hollow Horn Bear

The Department of Education is working on a partnership with the South Dakota Humanities Council to align the Oceti Sakowin Standards with proposed social studies standards to provide an opportunity for students to engage in cultural understanding.