



# RUSD

RIVERSIDE UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## January 2023| American Indian Initiative Update

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The [riversideunified.org/AmericanIndianInitiative](https://riversideunified.org/AmericanIndianInitiative) webpage houses the multi-phased and multi-pronged effort for the American Indian Initiative. Please explore the webpage and learn what we are doing in the areas of leadership, policy, professional development, curriculum and materials, accountability for district climate and student learning and well-being.

- **Leadership**

- Meetings were held with local tribal leaders and Native American stakeholders to discuss planned activities through the school year.
- Listening sessions for the Native American community took place on December 5 and 12. Feedback included how to continue to work with local tribes for accurate history and information for teaching resources and regular feedback with the community.
- A Land Acknowledgement was finalized by tribal leaders and reviewed by Native American stakeholders committee.
  - *RUSD believes that the diversity of the district's community of students, staff and families are integral to our mission, values and equity tenets. Recognition of the many layers of our collective history is critical to building mutual respect and connections. Today, we acknowledge the Indigenous homelands and accept responsibility for educating our students and staff about the rich culture and present-day issues facing proud local tribal communities. We are honored and grateful to be here today on these traditional homelands.*
- Board policy 0415 (Equity) was revised and approved by the Board of Education on December 15, 2022.

- **Professional Development**

- A committee is back underway to select a vendor for implicit bias for all staff. An update to the RUSD Board of Education is planned for March 2023.

- **Curriculum and Materials**

- Third grade resources focused on local Riverside history continue to be updated. Supplemental instructional materials are being gathered and reviewed by Tribal Leaders and stakeholder groups for input and finalization.

- **Student Learning and Well-being**

- Quarterly meetings are scheduled for Native American families. This group will begin developing activities for students to engage in at school that will honor their American Indian ancestry as well as their current tribal traditions. This will consist of planning for campus-based clubs to include all young people interested in American Indian cultural experiences, as well as making connections with local colleges and universities to inform students of unique learning opportunities designed to provide a deeper knowledge about their heritage.

The meeting dates are: 1/19/23 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Virtual), 1/20/23 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (In-Person), 2/2/23 2:00-3:00 p.m. (In-Person), and 2/6/23 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Should you have any questions or interest in participating, please contact Linda Christopher at (951) 788-7135

- **Accountability for Upholding District-wide Climate**
  - District and school leadership is reinforcing and supporting [RUSD BP 4119.21 Professional Standards](#) across school sites and throughout the district. Leadership shared and discussed the importance of the professional standards with their site and department teams.