



MREA establishes an American Indians Students (AMI) Advisory Committee for Member Districts Serving AMI students.

Rationale: Only 42% of American Indian students graduate according to 2007-11, USDOE 4 year graduation cohort data. This is last among the 50 states and ½ the graduation rate of white-non Hispanic Minnesota students: the largest achievement gap in Minnesota. All of the 38 Minnesota school districts with 8% or more American Indian students, and 71% of the 41 Minnesota school districts with 100 or more American Indian students are in Greater Minnesota. 25 of those districts are MREA member districts. [Learn more about the location of AMI students in Minnesota]

Action: The MREA Board of Directors at its February 26, 2013 meeting established the AMI Advisory Committee as a standing committee to advise the MREA board on advocacy and member services for school districts serving AMI students. At its April meeting, the MREA Board appointed the following MREA AMI Advisory Committee (so far):

John Varner, Sup, Onamia
Leah Monroe, Indian Education Coordinator, Northland Schools
Lee Carlson, Teacher, St. James, member MREA Board of Directors
Matt Grose, Sup, Deer River
Rae Villebrun, Sup, Nett Lake
Steve Cairns, Sup, Bagley

To facilitate communications among the school districts and others serving AMI students, MREA has started a web page [AMI Advisory Committee]. To facilitate communications among educators serving AMI students this page will be open to comments. This is to promote sharing of best practices and the exchange of helpful information. To initiate a topic please send an article to mrea@mnrea.org.

To advocate for issues unique to districts serving significant numbers of AMI students, for the first year, 50% of the dues of school districts who join MREA after 1/1/2013 for the purpose of advocating for AMI students will be dedicated to that advocacy. The MREA Board will evaluate this policy in 2014. Also based on the recommendation of the AMI Advisory Committee, the MREA Board will consider other means of raising funds for advocacy for issues unique to school districts serving AMI students. [learn more—link to Advocacy document]

Coordination: MREA looks to cooperate with other organizations and individuals interested and involved in the education of Minnesota's American Indian Students, including but not limited to:

- Dennis Olson, MDE Director of Indian Education
- Tribal Nations Education Directors
- Tribal Nations Education Council (TNEC)
- Minnesota Indian Education Association (MIEA)
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC)