



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2014:058

SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative was launched in an effort to address concerns regarding the wide variability in state standards resulting in uneven and unequal educational opportunities across states and lowered expectations for student achievement in order to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; and
- WHEREAS,** CCSS are a set of commonly agreed upon standards for K-12 learning, grounded in research and practice, reflecting the type of skills and knowledge students need for a successful transition between high school, college, and the world of work while also remaining competitive in a global economy; and
- WHEREAS,** potential benefits of CCSS include aligned standards across states and public schools, which could limit or mitigate interruptions or disconnects in learning for Native students who are mobile between schools and states, or between public, Bureau of Indian Education schools, and Tribal schools; and
- WHEREAS,** the skills and knowledge identified as necessary in the standards should include the skills and knowledge identified by Native communities as being critical to their continued development and well-being that also provide a pathway for their students' success; and
- WHEREAS,** CCSS requires all teachers to master the same curriculum in each content area, instead of differing curricula in varying states; and
- WHEREAS,** for Native students, cultural inclusion is often necessary for success, and this may be an opportunity to expand instructional competencies to include Native histories, languages, and cultures, along with the dedicated time for professional development in these areas as well as in all schools serving Native students attending public, Tribal, charter, federal and any other institution serving Native students; and

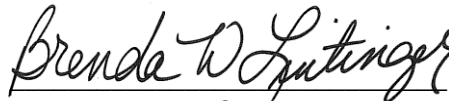
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors, at the request of the USET Education Committee, and in unified agreement with NIEA, call upon the States to identify and evaluate the educational needs of Tribal Nations and provide evidence including: dropout rate, attendance, student achievement and Tribally defined standards at all grade levels; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon States to meaningfully consult, collaborate, and develop Tribal-state partnerships that specify additional standards ensuring Native histories, cultures, languages, Tribal sovereignty, and government structures are incorporated into the standards and where in conflict (e.g. use of standard English instead of multiple languages), allow for languages used by Native communities of Tribal Nations as a home medium of communication; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon States to recognize and support the right of Tribal Nations to exercise educational sovereignty in leading the implementation of Common Core State Standards in developing culturally relevant standards, curriculum, professional development, and assessments as well as other critical components that affect the education of Native students; and, be it finally
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon Common Core State Standards States to ensure teachers and administrators have the resources they need to successfully implement culturally-respectful standards by providing onsite and ongoing training, access to Common Core State Standards implementation material and instructions, and giving proper notice to changes in implementation procedures and ensuring schools have equitable access to hardware and technology for effective learning and assessment.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Bar Harbor, ME, June 4, 2014.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”