



**TEDNA & FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE**  
**SELF-DETERMINATION OVER EDUCATION THINK TANK**  
Dena'ina Center, Room Tikahtnu AC, Anchorage, Alaska  
Sunday, June 8, 2014, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**INVITATION & AGENDA**

This Think Tank session is open to all those interested in being part of an interactive dialogue space, utilizing the expertise of those who join, to think through paradigm change in Native education.

- 2:00 p.m.     **Opening Circle & Prayer**  
Welcome & Agreements  
Introductions  
Think Tank Purpose  
Group Dialogue Sessions
- 4:00 p.m.     **Closing Circle**

**What if...our education system for Native children was structured similar to the Alaska Tribal Health System?**  
Could federal and state education departments negotiate with the Native Education Compactors (made up of the Tribes or their designated Regional Non-Profit, a function many Alaska Native regional non-profits already fill in the health care and human services arena) from across the state? Perhaps it is called the Alaska Native Education System, a voluntary affinity system made up of participating Tribes and their education departments and/ or organizations, and we have a statewide organization called the Alaska Native Education Consortium that provides statewide educational services, convenes compactors for purposes of advancing Native education through training and research, facilitates the Tribal Caucus, and hosts negotiations. Discussions with Native education stakeholders from across the country can help inform the discussion.

Some of the questions that may come up during our session include, but are not limited to:

- What would self-governance over Native education actually look like?
- What could be achieved if education was done the way we lead healthcare?
- What are the barriers to doing this? What stands in our way? What holds us back?
- What are the solutions? What actions need to be taken to advance systemic change?
- What information do we need? What more do we need to know?
- Who can really help think this idea through? Who needs to be in the room for further dialogue and thinking?

The intention of this think tank is to utilize a system where we have seen a major paradigm shift with the implementation of self-determination and self-governance. **Out from under the lens of the current 'education' system, what can we collectively create to achieve the paradigm shift we need in education in order for our children and communities to thrive?**