

Abstract

The Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Project will develop, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of services and programs to improve educational opportunities and achievement of Native high school youth. Over 1,200 Native high school youth will be participating in the TEDNA ACE Project each year. The goal of the project will be to expand Native high school youth access to high-quality, evidence-based educational choices while also increasing parental support and family involvement. Performance indicators informing and guiding the TEDNA ACE Project will include the following: number of available educational options, number of culturally relevant options; students served per option; the percentage of parents reporting the number and variety of options offered to meet their children's needs, that the quality of options offered meets their children's needs; and requests for additional services that resulted in adding new services to the offerings; and the average time to respond to requests for specific services.

The TEDNA ACE Project proposes a planning period the first year to coordinate partners and critical stakeholders to design a Plan of Action to implement high-quality educational services and supports for: (a) four Tribes/Nations—Muscogee Creek, Cheyenne & Arapaho, Comanche, and Citizen Potawatomi—that are each Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) members; (b) eleven high schools representing eleven local education agencies—Bristow, El Reno, Geary, North Rock Creek, Sapulpa, Sand Springs, Stillwater, Watonga, Indianola, Seiling, and Walters--(c) Riverside Indian School (BIE school); and (d) the Sovereign Community School (Charter). Student and parent educational student support services at these sites will be addressed by local Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Specialists. These ACE specialists will be trained in educational opportunities and choices by the service providers and

government agencies that will improve access to and outcomes from an array of existing services such as: Oklahoma’s Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) programming; Oklahoma’s state-wide PreACT, the ACT, and anticipated WorkKeys (NCRC) programs; advance TEDNA’s advocacy of exercising self-determination through education.

A Year One Planning Period will be used by the partners to identify, expand, and coordinate the list of high quality, evidence-based student service options. An outcome of this partner's effort will be to have a plan that selects service providers and that informs parents and students of the available service choices under the project. These service choices will be designed to improve student and parent satisfaction with the student’s overall education experience. It will also result in a fair and neutral process of selecting service providers that will result in high-quality options from which parents and students can choose.

During Project Years Two to Five, evidence-based products, services, and strategies to improve Native student access and success in educational programs will be ensured. Embedded in this TEDNA ACE Project will be school and community-level data, including direct input from parents and families of Native youth to enhance student success. Measurable outcomes of the Project will be: (a) increased enrollment in educational programming as prioritized through the planning processes; (b) increased successful educational outcome objectives for participating students and families; (c) documented improvements in student/parent/family satisfaction in programming as prioritized through the community planning process and feedback systems to achieving educational outcome objectives. The sustainability of evidence-based educational opportunities for Native youth and families is paramount. An essential element to sustainability embedded in this project is the communication of quality educational opportunities to Native high school youth and families to succeed in their self-determined educational outcome objectives.