

Title VII Basic Information

What is Title VII? Title VII is the section of Public Law 107-110 (NCLB) that addresses the federal government's responsibility for the education of Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Children. Title VII was formerly known as Title IX.

Who is eligible for Title VII funds? A local education agency that provides free public education to 10 or more Indian students during the 2012-2013 school year may be eligible for funds for the 2013-2014 school year.

How is an Indian child defined? Indian means any individual who is
(1) a member (as defined by the Indian tribe or band) of an Indian tribe or band, including those Indian tribe or bands terminated since 1940, and those recognized by the State in which the tribe or band reside; *or*
(2) a descendent in the first or second degree (parent or grandparent) as described in (1); or (3) considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose; *or*
(4) an Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska Native; *or*
(5) a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect October 19, 1994.

How is this documented? The LEA will maintain a file for each Indian child. The file will contain 506 forms and any other information as required by the federal government. This form reports either the child's tribal enrollment information or the enrollment information of the parent or grandparent if the child is not an enrolled member, the name and address of the parent or legal guardian, and a signature of the parent or legal guardian verifying the accuracy of the information. The file should also contain a statement of whether the tribe or band is federally recognized. This will probably be stated on the tribal enrollment information.

**Student Title VII files are confidential and should be kept in a secure location, as are all student files.

How much money is awarded? Due to other obligations of the federal government at this time, the amount awarded for 2013-2014 will decrease from 2012-2013. For 2011-2012 Nebraska school districts were awarded approximately \$235.00 per student. For 2013-2014 the amount will not increase. We were advised to recommend budgeting for 10% less than that amount for 13-14 in order that schools are prepared if they receive fewer funds.

To Do Before Applying for a Title VII grant:

1. Establish a parent committee and by-laws for the committee.
2. Meet with the parent committee to determine the needs of Indian children before writing the grant. Simultaneously gather student 506 forms. Some students who are "Pacific Islanders" and/or claim "Two or more races" may also be eligible if they fit the definition of "Indian" provided above.
3. With input from the parent committee the grant should be drafted and reviewed through a public hearing (i.e. a school board meeting, an open parent committee meeting)
*The emphasis of the grant should be on methods for improving student achievement.
4. Be sure that all of your documentation is in place for federal review.