

Indigenous Students and Families

Who are Indigenous/American Indian students?

- Indigenous/American Indian or Alaska Native refers to **a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.**
- Indigenous students from many distinct tribal nations continue to live and work in Texas today. Regardless of their tribal affiliations, many keep their ancestors' memories, traditions, customs, and languages alive.
- Only three federally recognized tribes still have reservations in Texas, the Alabama-Coushatta, Tigua, and Kickapoo. The state-recognized Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas has its headquarters in McAllen.

Quick 2023–24 Enrollment Stats:

- 26.7% of current Indigenous students are classified as an emergent bilingual (EB) student.
- 9.9% of Hispanic students identify as Indigenous.
- 8.7% of multiracial students identify as White/American Indian.
- Currently, there are 18 identified Indigenous languages across Texas public schools.

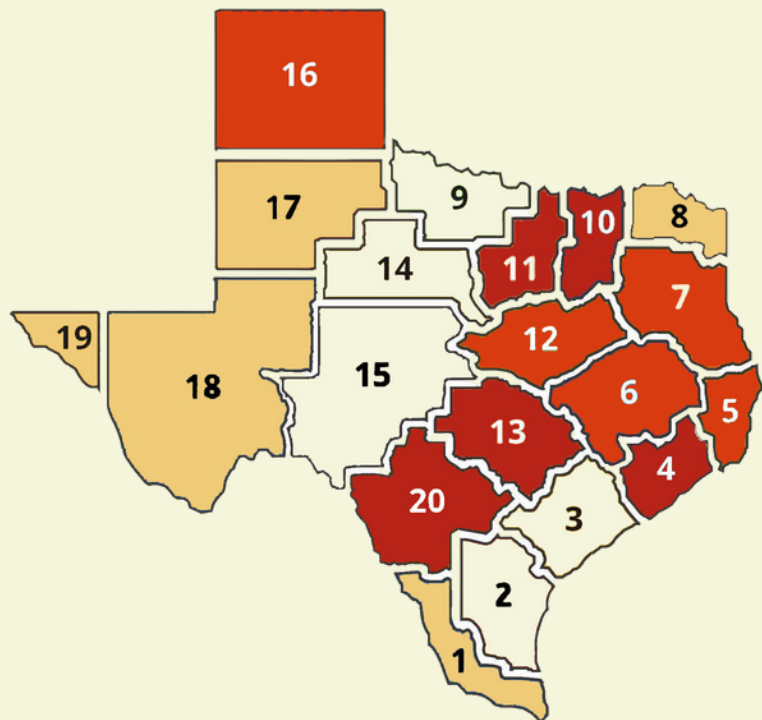
There are 17,939 Indigenous students enrolled in Texas public schools.



Federal Statute

- The term emergent bilingual (EB) student is synonymous with English learner (EL) which is used by the federal government in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 8101[20] where an EL is defined as an individual:
 - (A) who is aged 3 through 21;
 - (B) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;
 - (C)(i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English; **(ii)(I) who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and (II) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency.**
- An Indigenous student may be classified as an emergent bilingual student under this statute.

Indigenous Students and Families



Indigenous Population Size by Region

Lowest

Highest

Top 5 Regions with Indigenous Student Populations

1. Region 10 - 5,155
2. Region 4 - 3,990
3. Region 11 - 2,059
4. Region 20 - 1,160
5. Region 13 - 916

2023-24 Enrollment in Texas Public Schools

Indigenous Languages Across Texas

A. Tiwa	J. Creek
B. Navajo	K. Comanche
C. Kickapoo	L. Crow
D. Menominee	M. Pueblo
E. Apache	N. Winnebago
F. Chippewa/Ojibawa/Ottawa	O. Coushatta
G. Cherokee	P. Hopi
H. Choctaw	Q. Oneida
I. Algonquin	R. Pima

2023-2024 Home Language PEIMS Data

Strengthening Partnerships with Indigenous Parents and Families

- **Be compassionate and considerate:** The English language carries weight in Indigenous communities. Leading conversations with empathy will best support the identification process for bilingual education services.
- **Understand and acknowledge efforts being made by tribal nations for language vitalization:** Language vitalization efforts are occurring nationwide. Leaning on your local tribes and communities will be vital.
- **Focus on an asset-based mindset and the families' visions of success for students:** Families are more willing to engage with educators when they feel understood and see the value of community and language connections in bilingual programs and resources. Often times Indigenous parents and families will value bilingualism over goals solely focused on English language proficiency.

Additional Resources

- [Native Land Digital](#)
- [National Indian Education Foundation](#)
- [Supporting American Indian English learner students](#)