



SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

Native American Community | Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Hosted by Steve ReVello and Rose McGuire

Participants: 16 (in person at the Denver Indian Resource Center); Representatives from Pueblo of Laguna, Muscogee (Creek), N. Arapaho,/Yuchi, Cherokee, Cheyenne River Sans Arc Lakota, Hunkpapa Lakota/Standing Rock, Navajo, Oneida, Lakota, Crow, Dine/Oglala Lakota, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate/Rosebud, Kiowa/Cherokee

Language: English

Below is a summary of the feedback from this listening session. It may not reflect the views of all participants and stakeholders district-wide.

What is going well?

- Indigenous land acknowledgment, including in some schools where it is student-led
- Learning communities for Native American students in different high schools about various topics (e.g., suicide prevention)
- The inclusiveness and openness of systems that allow for the provision of mental health and social-emotional services
- Native American Culture and Education (NACE) the program itself
- Inclusivity on issues beyond race
- Restorative justice approaches
- The increase of Social Emotional Learning curriculum in schools
- The self-determination of our students and our people
- Inclusion of culturally appropriate academic material (e.g., films about Native American topics)

What needs improvement?

- Hire and retain Native American staff/faculty that will support our students
- Consider how HR policies limit the hiring of Native American practitioners and service providers
- A curriculum that is inclusive and honors Native Americans
- White and Eurocentric models are not serving our students
- Predominant culture silences our voices; they are too loud.
- Ongoing education and training, so teachers and staff are prepared to teach our students
- Teachers use Native American students to teach about Native American issues/topics. It is tokenism and inappropriate
- Students who lack credits are sent to pathways schools
- Some people do not understand equity and make decisions that are good for the schools but do not put students first

Advice for Dr. Marrero

- Get Native American students out of the bottom in terms of attendance, discipline, academics, graduation. If you can solve that problem, you will not have a problem solving other issues
- We do not choose to be leaders; the students choose us
- Walk the talk and continue to engage with the Native American Community