

EDUCATION NEWS

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2024

The Importance of Literacy

Are you reading with your child(ren) every day? It is an important question to think about if our community wants to address the literacy rate of American Indian students.

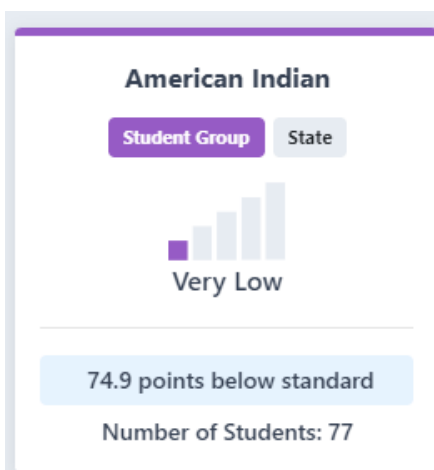
“In 2016 the North Carolina State Advisory Council on Indian Education conducted a study of academic data of American Indian students in NC on the EOG (End of Grade Test). The EOG reading data showed that American Indian students performed 27.8 percentage points below the average for white students in reading. Only 42.8% of American Indian students demonstrated grade level proficiency in reading.”

Literacy is a widespread concern across the nation in general, and the low literacy rate has a bigger impact on our tribal nations. Bringing it closer to home, at Hemet Unified School District, 77 students identified as Native American in the California Dashboard, and that subgroup performed “Very Low” on the English Language Arts state testing.

What can we do to increase literacy?

There are many fun and great ways to raise literacy rates for our community and children.

- **Read books written and illustrated by Native Americans**– Studies have shown that when children see themselves represented, they are more likely to engage with the material and have a desire to continue to read.
- **Read every day**– studies show that reading every day for a duration of 15 or 30 minutes shows the highest gains in literacy.
- **Read high interest text**– this means let your kids read the books about topics that interest them the most.
- **Reread text**– it is okay to reread books over and over again. This can support confidence building when it comes to reading



This graphic is from the California Dashboard . It is specific to Hemet Unified School district and the students who identified as American Indian.



DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

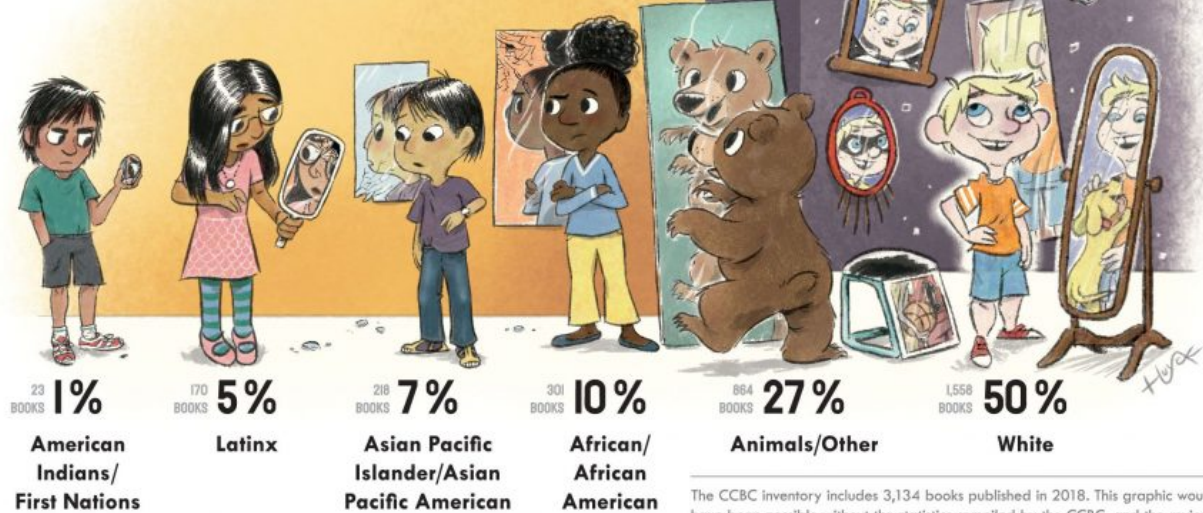


Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen. Released under a Creative Commons BY-SA license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

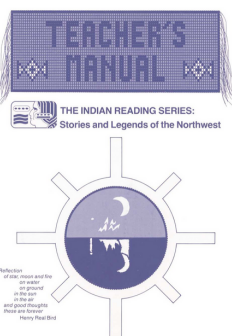
Where do we find great American Indian books?

The graphic above is to help show how representation of our diverse backgrounds are hard to come across. As you can see, American Indians are only represented in 1% of the books published in 2018. Books that were published about animals exceed books published about American Indians, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander, and African American.

Thankfully the San Diego County Office of Education in partnership with California Native Education for all made a wonderful book list, vetting and recommending the best American Indian books on the market. They even broke the list down by grade level!

There is also another great resource for American Indian created readers that are printable. This is a great resource for reading American Indian created reading materials. There is an instructors guidebook and a ton of great books!

Native Ways of Knowing K-3 BOOKS



Click the image to the left to get access to the free printable readers created by and for American Indians.

American Indian Monthly Reading Logs



Cahuilla Reads Kick Off!

Join the Director of Education on January 9th from 6pm-7pm at the Education Center for Cahuilla's first year of Cahuilla Reads! Cahuilla Reads is a program developed to support our young readers in literacy development. Each month a new, fun reading log will be available for pick up at the Education Center. There are two types of reading logs to choose from. The first one is a coloring sheet that encourages students to read each day for at least 20 minutes a day. The second log is a more traditional reading log that students or families can write the title of the book completed and give the book a rating. Students will be rewarded for their hard work at the end of each month. Bring in completed reading logs for a prize! The Education Center has books that can be checked out if reading material is needed to participate.

JANUARY READING LOG
Name _____
Color one drum for every 20+ minutes read each day.

JANUARY READING LOG
Name _____ Write the title of the books you complete in January.

Date	Title	Author	Rating
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AUGUST READING LOG
Name _____ Color one drum for every 20+ minutes read each day.

AUGUST READING LOG
Name _____ Write the title of the books you complete in August.

Date	Title	Author	Rating
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Are you interested in a career in Education?

Have you thought about a career in Education? Do you love teaching others new skills? Education is a very rewarding career pathway. As the Education department grows over the years, the need for qualified educators is going to rise. Research has shown that students who see themselves represented throughout the school staff, especially as teachers, increases confidence and performance.

Riverside County Office of Education has a program going on right now to support your early education career dreams. Early education is different than a certificated Elementary or High school age teacher. Early education teachers focus on Child Development during the first 5 years. An associate degree in Early Education is required to become an Early Education teacher. The Cahuilla Band of Indians Department of Education is here to help you plan your education goals, feel free to reach out and learn more.

Click the image below to learn more about the tuition support offered by RCOE. There is a one page application that requires proof of employment and a letter of intent for early education career goals.

Apply Now!

**Early Education Teacher
Development Grant**

**TUITION
SUPPORT STIPENDS**



Learn more about the steps to becoming an Early Education teacher [here](#).



January is National Mentoring Month

Can you recall an impactful mentor you had in your life? Do you wish you had a great mentor in your times of need? The Education Department is observing National Mentoring Month because of the profound impacts a great adult mentor can have on youth. Research has shown that just one positive relationship with an adult, can make all the difference in a child's life. The Education Department realizes that a great mentor can help others reach their education goals.

Join the Director of Education at the Education Center on January 16th from 6pm-7pm to learn about how to become a great mentor. Our youth need amazing mentors to help them socially, emotionally, spiritually, and academically. As the Education Department grows it will be essential to have access to great mentors to serve our youth.

Come to this workshop to start learning the basic role of a great mentor. There are lot of great resources to gain and we need your unique personality to make a great mentoring program. The Education Department will be hosting many events this year and could use really great mentors to bring the events to life.

Education Department January 2024 Calendar

January 2024

National Mentoring Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year	Pick Up Reading Logs				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Listening Session 6-630pm Education Center	Workshop-New Year New Reads Education Center 6-7pm				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Holiday	Workshop-Becoming a Mentor Education Center 6-7pm				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		Title VI Parent Meeting HUSD 10am @HamiltonHigh	Reading Logs Due 9-4pm			
4	5	Notes	Cahuilla Reads! Want to earn incentives for reading? Pick up your Cahuilla Reading Log at the Education Department. Turn in your log at the end of the each month for special prize New Year, New Reads- Come to the Cahuilla Reads kick off event at the Education Center on Jan. 9. Receive your first reading log! Becoming a Mentor- Are you interested in becoming a mentor with the Education Department? Come learn more!			

The Director of Education invites you to events hosted by the Education Department at the Education Center. January is the National Mentoring Month and we are going to kick it off with “Becoming a Mentor” for the Education Department workshop. This workshop is geared to young adults to elders who want to become a mentor to youth. As the Education Department grows, mentors will play a critical role in the development of our youth. Come to the workshop and find out what it means to be a great mentor and to shape the mentoring programming hosted by the Education Department.

The Title VI Parent Meeting is for Hemet Unified School District at Hamilton High School at 10am. This is a time for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles of students of HUSD to voice their ideas with the district. Please contact Jackie Cope or Leonella Leash if you want more information about these meetings.

Another Listening Session will be hosted on January 8th at the Education Center. Feel free to stop by and share what a thriving education department would look like to you. We have been having free flowing conversations about the role of a tribal education department. Those conversations have formed goals, mission and vision of the Education Department.