

TRIBAL HISTORY AND CULTURE PROJECT

Sample Letter to Tribal Leaders

The following is a sample letter from a school board to a Tribal government regarding government-to-government relationships under SHB 1495. This text should be treated as a starting point for customizing a letter to Tribes in your region. Before sending a letter, be sure it represents the appropriate protocol.

The Honorable _____
Chair
_____ Tribal Council
Address
City, State ZIP

Dear Chairman/Chairwoman _____:

School districts throughout Washington state have been encouraged by the Legislature to establish curricula on Tribal history, government and culture in their schools in partnership with neighboring Tribal nations. This landmark law (SHB 1495) is in keeping with the historic Centennial and Millennium Accords in which the state of Washington and Tribal nations pledge to work cooperatively to in a number of areas, including education.

SHB 1495 encourages school boards to work collaboratively with neighboring Tribal councils “to identify and adopt curriculum that includes Tribal experiences and perspectives, so that Indian students are more engaged and learn more successfully, and so that all students learn about the history, culture, government, and experiences of their Indian peers and neighbors.”

The Board of Directors of the _____ School District is committed to the principles of SHB 1495 and its goal of ensuring that all students have a deeper understanding of Tribal history and culture. Our board is also committed to closing the academic achievement gap for all students.

The _____ School District Board of Directors is eager to begin a dialogue with the _____ Tribal Council about developing curricula and identifying strategies to close the achievement gap. We respectfully request a meeting to explore how we can work collaboratively to address this important issues.

Sincerely yours,

President, _____ School District Board of Directors