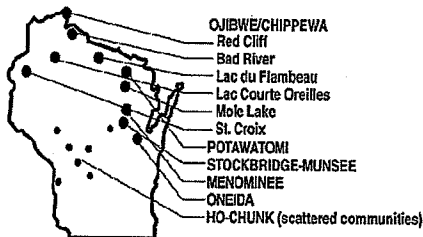


## American Indian Studies & "Act 31"



## What is Act 31?

The 1989-1991 biennial budget bill addressed several educational needs and included provisions requiring the study of Wisconsin American Indian history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the federally-recognized tribes and bands in the state.

## "Act 31" Created the Following Statutory Sections:

- s. 115.28(17)(d), Wis. Stats.
- s. 118.01(c)7-8, Wis. Stats.
- s. 118.19(8), Wis. Stats.
- s. 121.02(1)(h), Wis. Stats.
- s. 121.02(1)(L)4, Wis. Stats.

## s. 115.28(17)(d), Wis. Stats. *Treaty Rights Curriculum*

The state superintendent shall:

In conjunction with the American Indian Language and Culture Board, develop a curriculum for grades 4 to 12 on the Chippewa Indian's treaty-based, off-reservation rights to hunt, fish, and gather.

## s. 118.01(c)7-8, Wis. Stats. *Human Relations*

Each school board shall provide an instructional program designed to give pupils:

7. An appreciation and understanding of different value systems and cultures.
8. At all grade levels, an understanding of human relations, particularly with regard to American Indians, Black Americans, and Hispanics.

## s. 118.19(8), Wis. Stats. *Teacher Certification*

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state superintendent may not grant to any person a license to teach unless the person has received instruction in the study of minority group relations, including the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the federally recognized tribes and bands located in the state.

**s. 121.02(1)(h), Wis. Stats.  
Instructional Materials**

Each School Board shall:

Provide adequate instructional materials, texts, and library services which reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society.

**s. 121.02(1)(L)4, Wis. Stats.  
K-12 Social Studies Instruction**

Each school board shall:

Beginning September 1, 1991, as part of the social studies curriculum, include instruction in the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands located in the state of Wisconsin at least twice in the elementary grades and at least once in the high school grades.

**Current Efforts and Next Steps**

- Wisconsin Media Lab (Educational Communication Board) project *The Ways* at [theways.org](http://theways.org)
- Wisconsin Tribal Histories Initiative: Act 31 Coalition
- Annual American Indian Studies Summer Institute

**American Indian Studies  
Program Activities and Services**

- Presenting at conferences, workshops, and in-services.
- Organizing or assisting with planning of conferences, workshops, etc. including the Annual American Indian Studies Summer Institute (AISSI).
- Developing, acquiring, and/or disseminating instructional resources.

**Continued**

- Collecting and disseminating pertinent information.
- Serving as DPI liaison to tribal communities, and other associations and organizations, such as the Great Lakes Intertribal Council (GLITC) and Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA).

**American Indian Studies  
DPI Publications**

Instructional Resources

*Classroom Activities on Chippewa Treaty Rights*

*Classroom Activities in State and Local Government*

*Classroom Activities on Wisconsin Indian Treaties and Tribal Sovereignty*

### **American Indian Studies DPI Publications**

Reference and other materials:

*American Indian Studies Resource Manual for Public  
Libraries*

*Indian Government and Law Series*

See also *Multicultural Literature for Children and  
Young Adults* by the Cooperative Children's Book  
Center

### **American Indian Studies Program Web Page**

- Announcements, Calendar, Updates
- Information about the wi-aislist E-mail Listserv
- Instructional Resources
- Downloadable versions of:
  - American Indian Studies Program  
Information Packet
  - Bibliography Series for American Indian Studies

### **Continued**

- American Indian Language and Culture Education  
information on grants and licenses for staff
- Web Links for American Indian Education
- Statutes and Rules on American Indian Studies
- License Information for Staff
- Licensure Rules

### **Contact Information**

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