

Improving graduation rates for American Indian students



Vision in Action

Bayfield High School, Bayfield

BAYFIELD'S DEMOGRAPHICS (2015-16)	Total number of students	125
	American Indian	96 (77%)
	White	24 (19%)
	Other	5 (5%)

(source: wisedash public)

BAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL is dedicated to creating a culture that is responsive to the needs of their student body. Located in northern Wisconsin, over 75% of their students are American Indian.

Recognizing the connection between student engagement and academic achievement, the leadership team purposefully decided to reflect the culture of all students in every aspect of the school, classroom, and curriculum.

The use of strong cultural imaging is evident instantly upon entry into the school. Visitors are greeted by a mosaic depicting an Ojibwe leader and a large dreamcatcher suspended from the ceiling. A mural in the cafeteria displays area wildlife, representing the connection between nature and the students' culture.

The curriculum is also culturally relevant. Teachers incorporate natural resource aspects of the region into the daily curriculum. Ojibwe language and culture classes also enhance student interest and engagement, which also serves to protect the past and honor indigenous ways.

Their outdoor project-based learning program allows students to engage even further in projects that validate and preserve their culture, including learning how cultivate mushrooms, monitor animals using trail cameras, and collect maple sap and process it into syrup.

Bayfield believes this commitment to culture has increased student engagement, leading to a decrease in suspension rates and an increase in graduation rates for American Indian students.

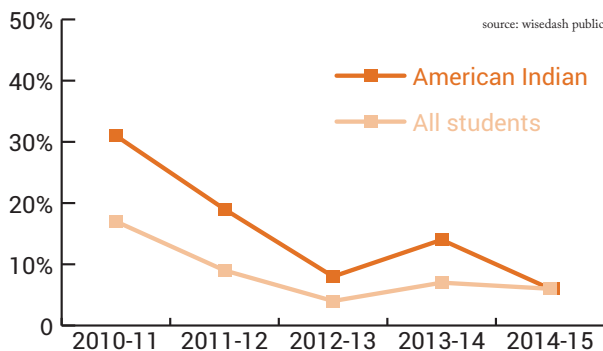
In 2012, Bayfield began assessing in PBIS and reading. A year later, they began assessing in mathematics.

Bayfield has been at fidelity at the universal level for PBIS for 5 years. They have also been at full implementation at the universal level for reading and math for 2 years (2014-15 and 2015-16).

Implementation Snapshot

"We needed kids to come here and feel safe and feel like they belonged."
—Pupil Services Director Sandy Raspotnik

Decreasing Suspension Rates



BAYFIELD HAS SEEN AN **80% DROP** IN SUSPENSIONS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS AND A **65% DROP** FOR ALL STUDENTS.

Increasing Graduation Rates

