An act to add Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to California Indian education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1703, as introduced, Ramos. California Indian Education Act: California Indian Education Task Forces.

Existing law provides for the establishment of California American Indian education centers by any tribal group or incorporated American Indian association to meet specified objectives, and further provides for the administration of grants, upon application, by the State Department of Education for those purposes in accordance with specified provisions. Existing law requires each center to annually submit specified data to the department that reflects each center’s ability to meet its stated objectives and any other objectives chosen by the center.

This bill would establish the California Indian Education Act and encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to form California Indian Education Task Forces with California tribes local to their regions or tribes historically located in the region. The bill would encourage task force participants to discuss issues of mutual concern and to undertake certain work. The bill would require California Indian Education Task Forces to submit, within one year of formation and annually thereafter, a report of findings to the State Department of Education, as provided. The bill would require the department to submit, within one year of receiving task force reports
and annually thereafter, a report to certain education committees of
both houses of the Legislature regarding the narrowing of the
achievement gap and the adoption of curriculum, as provided.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) is
added to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the
Education Code, to read:

Article 7. California Indian Education Act

33390. This article shall be known, and may be cited as, the
California Indian Education Act.

33391. (a) The Legislature encourages local educational
agencies to form California Indian Education Task Forces with
California Indian tribe’s local to their region or tribes historically
located in the region. Participants in these meetings are encouraged
to discuss issues of mutual concern, and are encouraged to work
to do all of the following:

(1) Develop a thorough, shared understanding of accurate,
high-quality curricular materials about the history, culture, and
government of local tribes, and develop curricular materials for
use within local educational agencies that include tribal experiences
and perspectives and teach about the history, culture, and
government of local tribes.

(2) Develop a shared understanding of proper or improper
instructional material when these materials use depictions of Native
Americans.

(3) Encourage local educational agencies to adopt curriculum
developed by the California Indian Education Task Forces, in order
to ensure that all pupils learn about the history, culture,
government, and experiences of their Indian peers and neighbors,
and to ensure that Indian pupils are more engaged and learn more
successfully.

(4) Identify the extent and nature of the achievement gap
between Indian pupils and other pupils, and identify the strategies
necessary to close it.
(b) California Indian Education Task Forces shall submit, within one year of formation and annually thereafter, a report of findings to the department, including a finding on the progress of the work described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (a).

(c) The department shall submit, within one year of receiving task force reports pursuant to subdivision (b) and annually thereafter, a report to the Senate Education Committee and the Assembly Committee on Education regarding the progress made in the narrowing of the achievement gap, and the identification and adoption of curriculum regarding tribal history, culture, and government. The report shall include information about any obstacles encountered, and any strategies under development to overcome those obstacles.

(d) For purposes of this article, “local educational agency” means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.