



Teacher Background Questionnaire

2015

Grade 8



1. Counting this year, how many years have you taught at this school? If less than 1 year total at this school, enter “01.”

		Years
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2. To what extent have you acquired knowledge, skills, and information specific to teaching American Indian or Alaska Native students from each of the following sources? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Independent reading and study	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB592446
b. Your own personal or family background and experiences	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB592448
c. Locally sponsored American Indian or Alaska Native cultural orientation program	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VC202922
d. Living and working in an American Indian or Alaska Native community	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VC202915

3. To what extent have you acquired knowledge, skills, and information specific to teaching American Indian or Alaska Native students from each of the following types of classes? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. College courses, or other classes or workshops with a focus on teaching American Indian or Alaska Native students	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE012626
b. College courses, or other classes or workshops with a general focus on various cultures or diversity	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VE012628

4. During the last two years, how many times have you consulted each of the following resources to help you improve the academic performance of your American Indian or Alaska Native students? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Never	1 or 2 times	3 or 4 times	5 or more times	
a. Online websites or databases	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH158526
b. Articles in professional journals	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH158527
c. Local libraries or cultural centers	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH158530
d. Other teachers in your school	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH158529
e. Elders or other experts	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH158528

5. During the last two years, to what extent have you implemented culturally specific instructional practices for American Indian or Alaska Native students in your classroom?

- Ⓐ Not at all
- Ⓑ Small extent
- Ⓒ Moderate extent
- Ⓓ Large extent

6. During the last two years, how many times have you attended professional or community-based development programs (such as in-service classes and workshops, including online classes) aimed at developing culturally specific instructional practices for American Indian or Alaska Native students?

- Ⓐ Never → *Questions 7–8 are not applicable and will be skipped.*
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 times
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 times
- Ⓓ 5 or more times

7. To what extent have you implemented lessons learned from these professional or community-based development programs in your classroom?

- Ⓐ Not at all
- Ⓑ Small extent
- Ⓒ Moderate extent
- Ⓓ Large extent

8. Who sponsored the professional or community-based development programs you attended in the last two years? Select **all** squares that apply.

- ☐ (A) State
- ☐ (B) District
- ☐ (C) Tribal education department
- ☐ (D) Indian education professional associations
- ☐ (E) College or university
- ☐ (F) Other (please specify): _____

9. To what extent do you speak any of the native languages spoken by American Indian or Alaska Native students who attend this school? If you know more than one of these languages, answer for the one you know best.

- ☐ (A) No knowledge or skill; nonspeaker
- ☐ (B) Minimal functional or communicative ability; ability to use some words or phrases
- ☐ (C) Moderate communicative ability; can express some ideas and communicate in some situations, but limited and cannot always express ideas
- ☐ (D) Fluent nonnative speaker
- ☐ (E) Fluent native speaker

10. Have you received any of the following forms of preparation for teaching students whose first language is not English (sometimes called Limited English Proficiency [LEP] students or English Language Learners [ELL])? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Yes	No	
a. At least one college-level course on how to teach students whose first language is not English (but not a major, minor, or special emphasis)	☐ A	☐ B	VE012662
b. An undergraduate or graduate major, minor, or special emphasis in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), English Language Development (ELD), or Bilingual Education	☐ A	☐ B	VE012665
c. Any other training or professional development on how to teach students whose first language is not English	☐ A	☐ B	VE012666

11. To what extent do you use the following to assess the progress of your American Indian or Alaska Native students? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. State assessments	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154090
b. District assessments	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154091
c. Assessments developed by American Indian or Alaska Native organizations	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154092
d. Tests supplied by textbook publishers (for example, end of unit or chapter tests)	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154093
e. Teacher-made tests or quizzes	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154098
f. Performance-based assessments	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154095
g. Group projects	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154096
h. Oral responses of students during class discussions	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154097
i. Assessments to evaluate English language proficiency	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH154925

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12. Do you teach **reading/language arts** to grade 8 students?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No → *Questions 13–17 are not applicable and will be skipped.*

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13. How many students are American Indian or Alaska Native in your **reading/language arts** class? (Include both enrolled tribal members and descendants in your calculations.)

- Ⓐ Few (less than 5)
- Ⓑ Several, but less than half the class
- Ⓒ At least half the class, but not every student
- Ⓓ The whole class
- Ⓔ I don't know.

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14. To what extent do you use your students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) when you teach **reading/language arts**?

- Ⓐ Instruction is entirely in English.
- Ⓑ Instruction is primarily in English, but words or phrases from the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) are included occasionally.
- Ⓒ Instruction is primarily in English, but words or phrases from the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) are included frequently.
- Ⓓ Instruction is primarily in the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s).

15. How often do you integrate materials about the following topics into your **reading/language arts** lessons? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Never	At least once a year	At least once a month	At least once a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. American Indian or Alaska Native culture or history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH040385
b. Current issues affecting American Indian or Alaska Native people or communities	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH040386

16. How often do you have your students do each of the following **reading/language arts** activities? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Never	At least once a year	At least once a month	At least once a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Read literature with American Indian or Alaska Native themes	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012689
b. Read literature by American Indian or Alaska Native authors	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012690
c. Read about, or discuss, current issues of concern to the American Indian or Alaska Native community	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012691
d. Write about experiences or issues affecting American Indian or Alaska Native people	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012692
e. Write about their own experiences as an American Indian or Alaska Native person	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012693

17. How much do you rely on each of the following documents in planning **reading/language arts** lessons? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Not aware of any	
a. Standards developed by national professional organizations	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E	VE012698
b. State content standards	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E	VE012700
c. District content standards	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E	VE012701
d. American Indian or Alaska Native content or cultural standards	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E	VE012703

18. Do you teach **mathematics** to grade 8 students?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No → *Questions 19–23 are not applicable and will be skipped.*

19. How many students are American Indian or Alaska Native in your **mathematics** class? (Include both enrolled tribal members and descendants in your calculations.)

- ☐ A Few (less than 5)
- ☐ B Several, but less than half the class
- ☐ C At least half the class, but not every student
- ☐ D The whole class
- ☐ E I don't know.

20. To what extent do you use your students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) when you teach **mathematics**?

- Ⓐ Instruction is entirely in English.
- Ⓑ Instruction is primarily in English, but words or phrases from the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) are included occasionally.
- Ⓒ Instruction is primarily in English, but words or phrases from the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s) are included frequently.
- Ⓓ Instruction is primarily in the students' American Indian or Alaska Native language(s).

21. How often do you integrate materials about the following topics into your **mathematics** lessons?
Select **one** circle in each row.

	Never	At least once a year	At least once a month	At least once a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. American Indian or Alaska Native culture or history	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VH040390
b. Current issues affecting American Indian or Alaska Native people or communities	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VH040392

22. How often do you have your students do each of the following **mathematics** activities? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Never	At least once a year	At least once a month	At least once a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Solve mathematics problems that reflect situations found in American Indian or Alaska Native communities	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012733
b. Participate in activities that integrate mathematics with American Indian or Alaska Native themes (for example, use traditional symbols and designs to teach geometric concepts)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012735
c. Study traditional American Indian or Alaska Native mathematics (for example, American Indian or Alaska Native systems of counting, estimating, and recording quantities)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012737
d. Study mathematics within traditional American Indian or Alaska Native contexts (for example, American Indian or Alaska Native systems of astronomy and physics)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012739

23. How much do you rely on each of the following documents in planning **mathematics** lessons?
Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Not aware of any	
a. Standards developed by national professional organizations	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012743
b. State content standards	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012746
c. District content standards	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012747
d. American Indian or Alaska Native content or cultural standards	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VE012749

24. How much do you agree with each of the following statements about the materials available in your school library, media center, or resource center? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	
a. The number of books and materials available for 8th grade students is sufficient.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH040399
b. The quality of the books and materials available for 8th grade students is satisfactory.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH040401
c. The number of books and materials specific to American Indian and Alaska Native culture available for 8th grade students is sufficient.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH040402
d. The quality of the books and materials specific to American Indian and Alaska Native culture available for 8th grade students is satisfactory.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH040404

25. About how many of your grade 8 students will complete the 8th grade?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ A few
- Ⓒ Some
- Ⓓ Most
- Ⓔ All
- Ⓕ I don't know.

26. About how many of your grade 8 students will be prepared for high school?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ A few
- Ⓒ Some
- Ⓓ Most
- Ⓔ All
- Ⓕ I don't know.

27. To what extent is each of the following a problem in your school? Select **one** circle in each row.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Student absenteeism	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040413
b. Student tardiness	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040414
c. Student health problems	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040416
d. Teen pregnancies	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040417
e. Drug or alcohol use by students	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040421
f. Student misbehavior in class	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040422
g. Physical conflicts among students	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040424
h. Bullying	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040425
i. Low student aspirations	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040427
j. Low teacher expectations	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040428
k. Low family involvement	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	VH040430

28. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Select **all** squares that apply.

- ☐ A No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- ☐ B Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- ☐ C Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- ☐ D Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- ☐ E Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

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29. Which of the following best describes you? Select **all** squares that apply.

- ☐ A White
- ☐ B Black or African American
- ☐ C Asian
- ☐ D American Indian or Alaska Native (Print the name of your American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group below. You may indicate more than one tribe or group.)

- ☐ E Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

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30. What have you found to be the most effective teaching and learning strategies for increasing the achievement of your American Indian or Alaska Native students?

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31. In the space below, please share with us your thoughts about any other important issue(s) about your students, school, or community that are related to student academic performance, student aspirations, or other educational matters.
