

Failing Grade: The Status of Native American Education in Humboldt County

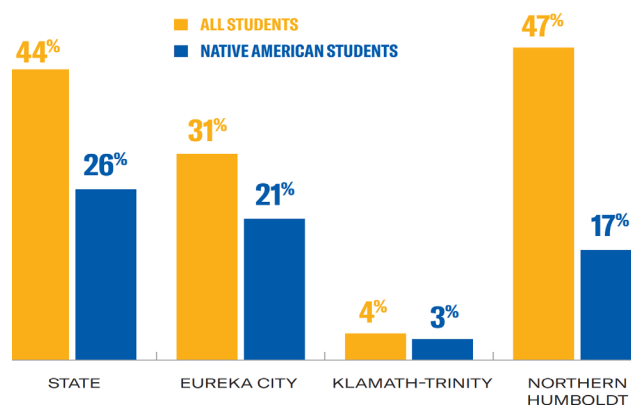
Since time immemorial, tribes have passed down their cultures, languages, and traditions through Indigenous ways of learning and knowing—but with the first contact between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, public education became a tool of oppression.

Across Humboldt County today, Indigenous students face egregious disparities in educational attainment: higher rates of exclusionary discipline, chronic absenteeism, and lower academic outcomes than their non-Indigenous peers.

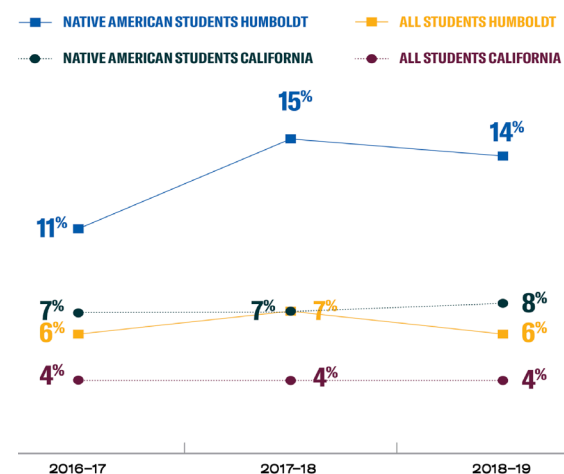
In shockingly high numbers, Native American students are leaving Humboldt County schools unprepared to enter the workforce or higher education. In the 2018–19 school year, **only 20% of Native American students met or exceeded English Language Arts standards** and met or exceeded grade-level math standards at less than half the rate of all California students.

Indigenous students in Humboldt County experience suspension rates nearly five times the state average for white students and experience chronic absenteeism at more than double the rate of all students throughout the state.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS



HUMBOLDT COUNTY OVERALL SUSPENSION RATES COMPARED TO CALIFORNIA AS A WHOLE



The vast majority of students in Humboldt County do not have access to school-based health professionals, like nurses and psychologists. The need for these school-based professionals is especially acute in Humboldt County, where higher than average numbers of people report significant life trauma.

	RATIO OF STUDENTS TO			
	Counselors	Nurses	Psychologists	Social Workers
RECOMMENDED RATIO	250	750	600	250
California	626	2,410	1,041	7,308
Humboldt County	763	4,707	1,228	No social workers
Humboldt County : California	1.2x higher	2.1x higher	1.2x higher	
Humboldt County : Recommended	3.1x higher	6.3x higher	2x higher	

This is a call to action for parents, educators and leaders across Humboldt County to find solutions and resources to address the crisis of under-education, de facto exclusion, and failure to provide a meaningful foundation for Indigenous students to achieve their true potential.

For more information, please read *Failing Grade: The Status of Native American Education in Humboldt County*. www.aclunc.org/humboldt

