

Appendix E:

Glossary



AAP	See Adoption Assistance Program.
ACEs	See Adverse Childhood Experiences.
ADA	See Americans with Disabilities Act.
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System	Data collection system established to provide information at the Federal, Tribal, and state levels on children in foster care, including the reasons for their entry and exit, and to aid in policy development and program management.
Adoption Assistance Program	A Federally and state-funded program that provides financial assistance and other support services to adoptive families, making the adoption process more affordable, and that provides ongoing support to families who adopt children with special needs.
Adverse Childhood Experiences	Potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood, such as violence, abuse, or growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. These experiences can have long-lasting effects on brain development and the body's response to stress.
AFCARS	See Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.
After School Programs	Structured activities that take place after regular school hours, providing children with a safe and supervised environment to engage in educational, recreational, and social activities.
AIANNH	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian
Amber Alert	A widely recognized emergency alert system in the United States used to notify the public, law enforcement agencies, and media about missing children, particularly cases involving abductions or imminent dangers. The system was named after Amber Hagerman, a nine-year-old girl who was abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas, in 1996.
Americans with Disabilities Act	A Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in various aspects of public life, including employment, education, and access to public facilities.
BCEs	See Benevolent Childhood Experiences.
Benevolent Childhood Experiences	Positive childhood experiences prior to age 18—such as caring relationships with friends, teachers, neighbors, and extended kin or mentors—that are characterized by perceptions of safety, security, and support. They have been proven to mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and to have a positive impact on wellbeing in adolescence and early adulthood.
BIA	See Bureau of Indian Affairs.
BIE	See Bureau of Indian Education.
BIPOC	An acronym meaning “Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.”

Block grant	A grant of Federal funds administered by a state, local, or Tribal government—often intended to support social services, public health services, or community development programs—provided with very few strings attached, under the assumption that local authorities are best suited to address local issues.
Bureau of Indian Affairs	A Federal agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior that is a principal player in the relationship between the Federal government and American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The Bureau's mission is to enhance quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and protect and improve trust assets of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Tribes.
Bureau of Indian Education	A Federal agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior that operates a network of schools—including elementary and secondary schools, dormitories, and post-secondary institutions—that serve Native American communities across the United States, and that funds other Native student-serving schools through the Johnson O'Malley program. The agency's mission is to ensure that Native American students receive a quality education that incorporates their languages, cultures, and traditions while preparing them for success in a modern world.
CAPTA	See Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.
CCDF	See Child Care and Development Fund.
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	A Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services responsible for administering Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance programs.
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act	Federal legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1974 that provides critical funding to states to support the prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The Act has been amended several times since its inception to strengthen protections for children and families, particularly those affected by child abuse and neglect.
Child care	A service that provides care and supervision for young children, typically while their parents or guardians are at work or unable to care for them.
Child Care and Development Fund	A fund authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, and used by states, Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide financial assistance to low-income families to access child care so they can work or attend job training or educational programs.
CIS	See Communities in Schools.
CMS	See Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
Communities in Schools	A national program that partners with schools and community organizations to provide students with opportunities, resources, and support to succeed in academics and in life, addressing challenges such as poverty, lack of access to health care, and family issues.
Department of Education	The Federal department responsible for promoting student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. Its work includes establishing policies, distributing and monitoring Federal financial aid, collecting data and disseminating research, focusing national attention on key educational issues, ensuring equal access to education, and distributing Federal funding to states, territories, Tribes/ Tribal organizations, and local school districts.
Department of Health and Human Services	The Federal department responsible for enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Americans by providing for effective health and human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves, and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services. HHS administers more than 100 programs across its operating divisions; its agencies include, among others, the Administration for Children and Families, Indian Health Service, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

Department of the Interior	The Federal department that protects and manages the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities. DOI is the lead department, through BIA and BIE, supporting Native communities.
Department of Justice	The Federal department responsible for upholding the rule of law, keeping the country safe and protecting civil rights. It is comprised of U.S. Attorneys, law enforcement agencies (the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, etc.), grantmaking agencies, and litigating divisions. Its responsibilities also include distributing funds to states, territories, and Tribes/Tribal organizations for assistance to victims of crimes, juvenile justice, and other law enforcement efforts.
Department of Labor	The Federal department responsible for fostering, promoting, and developing the welfare of the American wage earners, job seekers, and retirees; improving working conditions; advancing opportunities for profitable employment; and assuring work-related benefits and rights. DOL operates both adult and youth workforce development programs and a Division of Native American Programs focused on Native communities.
Direct Loan Program	A Federal student loan program offered by the Department of Education that provides loans directly to eligible students and parents to help cover the costs of postsecondary education.
DOI	See Department of the Interior.
DOJ	See Department of Justice.
DOL	See Department of Labor.
Early Head Start	A Federal program that provides comprehensive early childhood education and health, nutrition, and family support services to low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.
Elementary & Secondary Education Act	A 1965 Federal law that provides Federal funding for primary and secondary education and seeks to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. ESEA was replaced by No Child Left Behind.
Every Student Succeeds	A 2015 Federal law that replaced the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act and seeks to ensure that all students have access to quality education.
Evidence-based Practice	The medical sciences concept that clinical practice should follow scientific evidence, where the best such evidence is understood to be replicable and based on randomized controlled trials.
FACE	See Family and Child Education Program.
Family and Child Education Program	A family-focused education program that supports parents in their role as their child’s first teacher.
Family dependency treatment courts	Specialized courts programs that support parents with substance use disorders who are involved in child welfare cases. These courts provide a collaborative and coordinated approach, bringing together various stakeholders to address substance abuse and underlying issues while working towards reunification and improved outcomes for families in crisis.
Family First Prevention Services Act	An act that prioritizes keeping children safely with their families to avoid the potential negative impact of out-of-home placement.
FAFSA	See Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

FDPIR	See Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations.
Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations	A Federal program that provides nutritious food to low-income households on Indian reservations.
Food Stamps	The former name for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families. Also see SNAP.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid	An application submitted by students for financial aid from the Federal government, as well as from many states and colleges for higher education.
GAL	See Guardian ad Litem.
Guardian ad Litem	For children, a court-appointed individual, often an attorney or trained volunteer, who represents the best interests of a child involved in a legal proceeding, particularly in cases concerning abuse, neglect, or custody.
Head Start	A comprehensive early childhood development program that provides education, health, nutrition, and family support services to low-income children aged four to five and to their families.
Healing to Wellness	A term used to describe programs and approaches, often in specialized courts, that focus on holistic healing and wellness in Native American communities, often addressing substance abuse and behavioral health issues in a restorative justice model.
HHS	See Department of Health and Human Services.
ICWA	See Indian Child Welfare Act.
IEFA	See Indian Education for All.
IHS	See Indian Health Service.
Indian Child Welfare Act	A Federal law that seeks to preserve and protect the cultural identity and Tribal connections of American Indian and Alaska Native children in state child welfare proceedings.
Indian Education for All	State legislation that creates an educational initiative aimed at providing all students with an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the cultural heritage, contributions, and histories of Native American Tribes and individuals, as well as promoting mutual respect and cultural awareness among all students.
Indian Health Service	A Federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing health care services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives.
Intimate Partner Violence	Refers to any form of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse occurring between individuals in a close relationship, such as spouses, dating partners, cohabiting individuals, or children.
IPV	See Intimate Partner Violence.
Johnson O'Malley	A Federal program within the Bureau of Indian Education authorized by the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934, as amended, that provides supplemental funding to public schools (and formerly, private schools) to support programs in culture, language, academics, and dropout prevention for eligible Native American students.

Kin-GAP	See Kinship Guardian Assistance Program.
Kinship Guardian Assistance Program	A program that provides financial support and other resources to children living with relative caregivers who have obtained legal guardianship through foster care or juvenile justice court proceedings.
LEAs	See Local Education Agencies.
Local Education Agencies	Public boards of education or other public authorities within a state that have administrative control over public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision. LEAs sometimes work collaboratively with Tribal Education Departments (TEDs) to support the education and wellbeing of Native American students, leveraging their respective expertise and resources to address the unique needs of these students.
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	A Federal program that supports home visiting services for at-risk families to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce crime and domestic violence, increase family education level and earning potential, promote children's development and readiness for school, and connect families with community resources and supports, including those from Native communities.
Medicaid	A joint Federal and state program that provides health coverage to low-income individuals and families.
Medicare	A Federal health insurance program that primarily serves Americans aged 65 and older and certain younger individuals with disabilities.
MIECHV Program	See Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.
NACIE	See National Advisory Council on Indian Education.
NACTEP	See Native American Career and Technical Education Program.
NASNTI	See Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions.
National Advisory Council on Indian Education	An authorized national council established under §6141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. NACIE's responsibilities include providing advice and recommendations to the Department of Education on matters related to Indian education.
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention	A framework for suicide prevention efforts, including strategies to integrate and coordinate activities across multiple sectors and settings, promote public awareness and education, improve policies and quality of services, and better understand and support populations at risk of suicide.
Native American Career and Technical Education Program	A Federally funded initiative that provides grants to support career and technical education programs for Native American and Alaska Native communities, emphasizing partnerships and academic support for students.
Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions	Educational institutions, such as colleges and universities, that have a significant enrollment of Native American students and are designated to receive Federal funding to support and improve educational opportunities for Native American students.
NHOPI	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders; a grouping created by the U.S. Census for data reporting.

No Child Left Behind	A 2001 Federal law replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), intended to improve the academic performance of students, particularly those in low-income schools.
Not Invisible Act Commission	The Not Invisible Act authorized the creation of a commission to address the issue of missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives, with the goal of improving the response to such cases and making recommendations on how to prevent them.
Office for Victims of Crime	A Federal agency in the Department of Justice that oversees programs and grants for service providers and other professionals who assist victims of crime.
OVC	See Office for Victims of Crime.
PACA	See Post Adoption Contact Agreement.
Pell Grant	A need-based Federal grant program that provides financial aid for post-secondary education to undergraduate students from low-income families.
P.L. 102-477	A Federal law that provides Tribes with greater flexibility in administering Federal programs and services for employment, training, and related services by consolidating funds from 12 Federal departments into one plan, one budget, and one report through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
P.L. 83-280	A Federal law that transferred some jurisdictional powers over criminal and civil matters on Native American reservations from the Federal government to certain states.
P.L. 93-638	A short-form way of referring to the 1975 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, or Public Law 93-638, which gave Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations the authority to contract with the Federal government to operate programs serving their Tribal members and other eligible persons; such agreements are typically called “self-determination contracts.” Amendments to the act in 1988 and 1994 allowed “Self-Governance compacts,” which allow Tribes to combine various programs into a single funding agreement.
Post Adoption Contact Agreement	A voluntary agreement between the adoptive family and the birth family, allowing them to continue a relationship after the adoption takes place. A PACA will specify the frequency, type, and duration of contact between the two parties.
PSLF	See Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
Public Service Loan Forgiveness	A Federal student aid program that forgives the remaining balances on qualified student loans for employment in certain public service professions.
Resource and Patient Management System	An electronic health record system used by the Indian Health Service to manage patient information.
RPMS	See Resource and Patient Management System.
SAMHSA	See Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
SBHC	See School-based health centers.
School-based health centers	Medical clinics that provide comprehensive health care services to students within school buildings or on school grounds, often in underserved or low-income communities. These centers can provide services such as medical care, mental health services, dental care, and health education to students.
SEAs	See State Educational Agencies.

SEL	See Social and Emotional Learning.
Self-Determination	The right of Native people to govern their own affairs. (Note: This is a more general concept than the idea of a “self-determination contract”; see P.L. 93-638.)
Self-Governance	Also understood as self-governing, or the process through which a Native nation exercises decisionmaking authority over its own governmental affairs, from lawmaking to dispute resolution and from service provision to natural-resource management. (Note: This is a more general concept than the idea of a “Self-Governance compact”; see P.L. 93-638.)
SNAP	See Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; also see Food Stamps.
Social and Emotional Learning	The process of developing and acquiring skills, attitudes, and knowledge that enable individuals to understand and manage their emotions, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. It encompasses the promotion of self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and social skills for overall wellbeing and success in various life domains.
Social Services Block Grant	A capped entitlement program that provides funding to states and territories to support the delivery of social services for individuals with low incomes, allowing each state or territory to determine which services to support and which populations to serve.
Special Diabetes Program for Indians	A program established by Congress in 1997 to address the diabetes epidemic among American Indians and Alaska Natives. It provides grants for prevention and treatment programs aimed at reducing diabetes in these populations.
SSBG	See Social Services Block Grant.
State Educational Agencies	Government bodies in charge of implementing education laws and policies, providing guidance and technical assistance to local education agencies, distributing Federal funds, and monitoring educational programs and accountability in each state.
Strengths-based approach	A focus on identifying and utilizing an individual’s or community’s strengths, abilities, and resources to promote growth, resilience, and empowerment, rather than focusing on deficits or problems. It emphasizes building upon existing strengths and assets to improve outcomes and wellbeing.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	A Federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation and to improve the lives of individuals living with mental and substance use disorders and the lives of their families. SAMHSA’s grants and research aim to promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	A Federal program that provides food assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families; also see Food Stamps.
TANF	See Temporary Aid to Needy Families.
TEDs	See Tribal Education Departments.
Temporary Aid to Needy Families	A time-limited Federal cash assistance program that provides for a family’s basic needs. HHS provides funding to states, territories, and Tribes/Tribal organizations to operate their programs.
Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act	The section of ESSA that provides Federal funding to schools serving students from low-income families to support their educational needs.
Title IV-B of the Social Security Act	Formula funding provided for child welfare intervention to keep at risk families together, prevent unnecessary removal, and to reunify families whose children have been removed.

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act	Reimbursement funding provided to support child welfare services, including foster care and adoption, with a specific focus on providing culturally appropriate support for American Indian Tribes operating their own programs.
Title VI of the Every Student Succeeds Act	The section of ESSA that addresses Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education and provides for specific programming in support of Native students.
Title VII of the Every Student Succeeds Act	The section of ESSA that provides funding for Impact Aid, bilingual and immigrant education programs, including those for Native American students.
Trauma-informed care/approaches	An approach that recognizes the impact of trauma, promotes safety, trust, and empowerment, and considers the cultural needs and personal histories of individuals. Trauma informed care shifts the focus from “what is wrong with you” to “what happened to you.”
Tribal Colleges and Universities	Higher education institutions that are controlled and operated by Tribes and Tribal organizations.
Tribal Education Departments	Departments established by federally recognized Tribes to support the education of Tribal members. TEDs often work in partnership with local education agencies (LEAs) to improve education outcomes for Native students by collaborating on activities to enhance educational opportunities and address their unique needs.
Tribal Family Fairness Act	A bill that would remove administrative barriers to the participation of Indian Tribes in Federal child welfare programs, increase Federal funding for Tribal child welfare programs, and provide additional resources for child and family services in Tribal communities.
Tribal MIECHV	A Federal program that provides funding and support to Tribal communities to implement culturally appropriate home visiting programs that promote positive outcomes for pregnant women, infants, young children, and their families.
Tribal Training and Technical Assistance	Refers to the provision of knowledge, skills, and support to Tribal communities to enhance their abilities to plan, implement, and manage programs and initiatives that address their unique needs and priorities and build Tribal capacity.
Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside	A Federal program that provides support to Tribal communities to enhance services for victims of crime.
TTA	See Tribal Training and Technical Assistance.
TVSSA	See Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside.
Vocational Education	Training and education that prepares individuals for specific careers or trades.
WIC	See Women Infants and Children.
Women Infants and Children	A Federal program that provides nutrition assistance to pregnant women, new mothers, and young children from low-income families.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	2014 Federal legislation that provides funding for workforce training and support for individuals, including those who are typically underrepresented in the labor market, with a specific focus on job-driven training programs and partnerships.
Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico	A litigated decision in which the state of New Mexico was found to be violating the constitutional rights of students by not adequately investing in public education and failing to adopt appropriate educational programs and instruction. The case highlights the need for accountability and improvement in the education system for the benefit of all New Mexico students.