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### School Climate Transformation: Using a PBIS Model in Indian Country

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# School Climate Transformation: Using a PBIS Model in Indian Country

...transforming the social culture.

## Goal

To fully implement a culturally-grounded and culturally-appropriate Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) in schools that serve primarily tribal areas.

## Partners

- Tribal Cultural Advisors
- Target Schools
- MBI and Indigenous Consultants
- Montana OPI American Indian Youth Development Coord.
- Project SOARS - Montana's School Safety and Mental Health Initiative

## Montana Schools

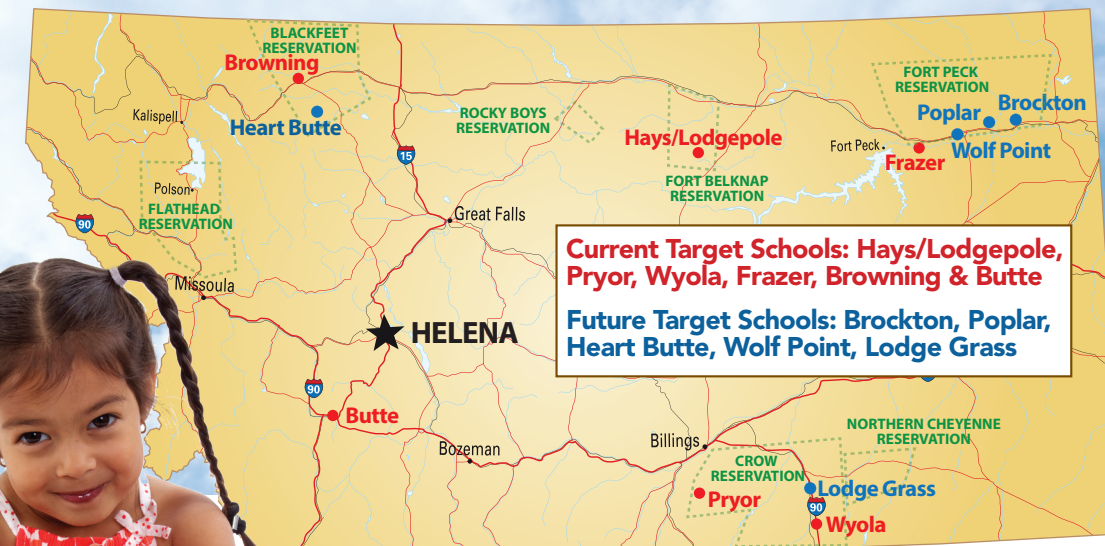
- 144,500 total students
- White: 79% of school-age population
- American Indian: 11% of school-age population
- Special Education rate is 3.5% higher for American Indians than Whites

## Participation

Quaglia Student Voice participation for SCT Schools:

Secondary - 1514	Staff - 209
Elementary - 579	Parent/Families - 167

Montana is home to seven reservations and 12 sovereign Native American nations.



## Changing Adult Behavior

- Build and grow decision making systems
- Encourage positive interactions with children
- Engage students, families and cultural advisers in problem solving
- Align multiple programs into a "paradigm"

## Challenges

- Extensive staff and administration turnover
- Tension between "Native" ways and "White" ways
- Staff availability for training (substitute teachers are not available)
- Too many programs in high need schools
- Inconsistent data and decision making infrastructure
- Target schools average 280 miles from SEA
- Inconsistent Internet availability

“An effective school represents the community it's a part of. The school must be a reflection of community values and traditions.”

– A Tribal Elder from the Fort Belknap Reservation (2015)

