What’s Important to Native Youth?

NAPTAC’s Summary of the 2017 State of Native Youth Report

A product of NAPTAC
Native American Parent Technical Assistance Center
Summary by Norrine Smokey-Smith
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Use this summary of the report to support your work with youth with disabilities who are American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN).

Online at: http://www.cnay.org/blog/native-american-youth-our-identities-as-civic-power

Native youth across the nation were asked to name the major issues facing young people in their community.

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<th>Issues That Matter Most to Us</th>
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2017 State of Native Youth Report: Our Identities as Civic Power

Who wrote the report?

Native Youth Speak Out

Culture and Language

AI/AN youth are the future leaders of their tribal cultures, traditions, and governments.

- **Connectedness to one’s tribal culture** | Key finding for increasing Native youth success.
- **Spirituality & support of family and friends** | Promote well-being, enhance prevention efforts, and reduce barriers to Native achievement.
- **Support for preservation of Native cultures** | Critical to maintaining tribal identities, traditions, and ideals.
- **Engaging youth through culture and language** | Central to helping youth find solutions to problems in their communities.
Suggestions for Parent Centers

- Check out NAPTAC’s narrative summary of the CNAY report, available on NAPTAC’s website.
- Incorporate CNAY’s findings—in essence, the voices of today’s Native youth—into your Parent Center activities, materials, and training sessions.
- Learn about promising practices that promote educational engagement and outcomes among Native youth. These will inform your outreach efforts to AI/AN parents and youth with disabilities as well as support your direct work with Native families.
- Share this infographic (and NAPTAC’s narrative summary) broadly, especially with schools and at Parent Center trainings for parents of Native youth with disabilities and at exhibit booths in AI/AN communities.
- Advocate for Native students in school meetings and planning groups in which your Parent Center is involved. Especially emphasize how the findings of the CNAY report illuminate the need for schools to include accurate information about Native history and culture in the curriculum that all students study.