



# Title VI Youth Services

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

### WHAT IS TITLE VI?

The Title VI grant is funded to provide a “unique and culturally related” educational experience while ensuring that “Indian students gain knowledge and understanding of Native communities, languages, Tribal histories, traditions, and cultures” and that school leaders and staff who serve Indian students are able to provide them “culturally appropriate and effective instruction”.

Aligning with the CTUIR Education Department mission and goals, Title VI focuses on learning literacy (pinášukwat) by connecting the students with their ancestral past through methods that are based in Tribal traditions

The Youth Services team strives to provide the support our students need to succeed by making sure they and families are connected to necessary resources, receiving academic assistance, and are participating in Indigenous Ways of Knowing, with the goal of increasing graduation rates and preparing students for economic sovereignty.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6th - Teacher of Year Nomination Submission Deadline

February 11th - NCS - wear orange to promote respect and healthy relationships for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month!

February 14th - Valentines Day

February 17th - No School for PSD and AW

February 20th - PELC Family Night and Early Kindergarten Registration

February 26th - PHS Forecasting Night



### DOES YOUR STUDENT QUALIFY?

If your student, yourself, or a grandparent is an enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe or Band or if your student is a descendant of a parent or grandparent who meets these requirements, your student qualifies.

A 506 form needs to be completely filled out and returned to your respective Indian Education Coordinator, the school's front desk, or the Title VI Youth Services Manager. Use the QR code below to access a fillable 506 form:



 SCAN ME



# News of Recently Released Graduation Cohort and Dropout Data

Pendleton School District areas of success:

- 5% increase in general graduation rate
- 2% increase in Hispanic student graduation rate
- 2% increase in students w/disabilities graduation rate
- 7% increase in 4-year completion rate
- No “gap” between general population and Native American students or between white students and Native American students
- Student dropout rate lowered by 1% to 3.8% as compared to previous year
- Exceeded state average in every area except dropout rate and 5-year completion rate

Check out the full article at  
[PSD Announcements](#)

Tribal Attendance Promising Practices



# SUNRIDGE HIRES ON NEW TAPP FAMILY COORDINATOR, RAY FOX.

Tribal Attendance Promising Practices is a program that is designed to support the attendance of AI/AN youth. “The intent of the collaboration is to strengthen the links between Oregon Tribes and the schools that serve any student identifying as American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN), even if the student is not a member of a federally recognized tribe.” [Oregon.gov TAPP Information](https://www.oregon.gov/DEED/Information/TAPP/Information)

As the TAPP Family Advocate, Ray is tasked with monitoring student attendance, reaching out to families regarding attendance, provide attendance incentives, host Family Nights, and more. Title VI has always worked beside the TAPP program to help address attendance issues at Washington and we are incredibly excited to have that opportunity at Sunridge now as well.

Title VI Youth Services

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# UPDATED COORDINATOR LOCATIONS!

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**WYNNEMA  
THURMAN**

Washington Elementary  
School (Wednesday-Friday)  
and Pilot Rock School  
District (Monday and  
Tuesday)

541-969-1247

**MICAH READING**

Pendleton High  
School (Monday-  
Wednesdays)  
Athena-Weston School  
District (Thursday-  
Friday)

**GAYLA  
BLANKENSHIP**

PELC, Sherwood,  
McKay

541-975-0520

**RACHEL  
GUARDIPEE**

Nixyaawii Community School

541-969-7864

**CARA GREENE**

Sunridge  
Middle School

541-561-2646

**TALIA TEWAWINA**

Indian  
Education  
Classroom  
Sunridge and  
PHS

541-969-7885

