

# *Indian Leadership* Education & Development

## Superintendent Certification

The purpose of the I LEAD project is to recruit, educate, and place American Indian educators into administrative positions at schools with high populations of Native American students. Candidates in the Education Specialist (Ed.S) program will participate in four blocks of instruction spanning a timeframe of about 12 months. This instruction meets OPI's academic requirement for Class III Administrator/Superintendent Licensure.

**A collaborative project of:**  
Little Big Horn College and the Educational Leadership Program at Montana State University Dept. of Education



## Benefits

- Educational Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership
- Qualification for state certification as school superintendent
- Tuition and fees paid including all admissions fees
- Books and all necessary course materials and supplies will be provided to each candidate
- Summer stipends to offset the costs of attending sessions conducted at the Bozeman Campus

## Requirements

- Be a member of a federal or state recognized tribe or have a parent or grandparent that was a tribal member
- At least one year of experience as a licensed school administrator
- Be admitted to Montana State University's Educational Specialist program.

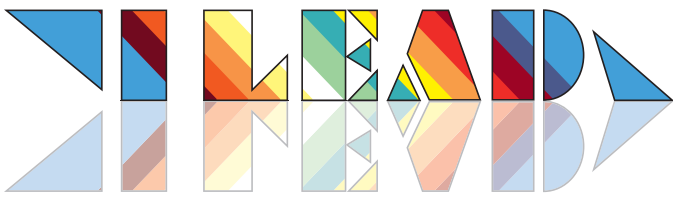
## Application Materials

- Graduate Application Form
- GPA Calculation Form
- Minimum undergrad/graduate GPA of 3.0
- Resume/Vitae
- Self-Nomination Letter
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Academic Transcripts
- Proof of Tribal Affiliation



**Apply to  
MSU  
Graduate  
School**





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## Schedule

### Spring 2026

EDLD 591 Indigenous Leadership

### Summer 2026

EDLD 620 School Superintendent

EDLD 655 MT Legal &  
Policy Studies

### Fall 2026

EDLD 610 Leadership and  
Organization

EDLD 574 Field Experience

### Spring 2027

EDLD 630 Advanced Instructional  
Leadership

EDLD 643 Leading Social Justice

### Summer 2027

EDLD 645 School Personnel  
& Collective Bargaining

EDLD 650 MT Finance & Facilities

EDLD 575 Professional Paper

**\*\*Students who complete coursework will  
earn an Education Specialist degree and  
meet the academic requirements for  
Superintendent Licensure**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What would happen if I decided not to apply for an administrative position after completing the program?**

This I LEAD project requires a payback of one year of service as an administrator at a school serving Native American students for every year of participation or a payback of the funds spent for your participation in I LEAD structured as a student loan.

### **Do I have to take all the courses at the times specified by cohort?**

Although you will have to take all of the courses, you could develop an alternative schedule allowing you to accelerate graduation or slow the pace. Keep in mind, that all course work must be completed by summer of 2030

### **Can I participate in the MSU classes offered through the I LEAD program, if I am not Native American, but work with Native American students?**

The I LEAD program is for those educators that are tribal members themselves or those with parents or grandparents who are tribal members. You may apply to the Ed.S. program offered to I LEAD participants, but have to self-fund your own cost of attendance.

**For more  
information:**

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Scan the QR  
to learn more  
about the  
I LEAD Program



**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of  
Education