

AUGUST 2026

TITLE VI YOUTH SERVICES NEWSLETTER

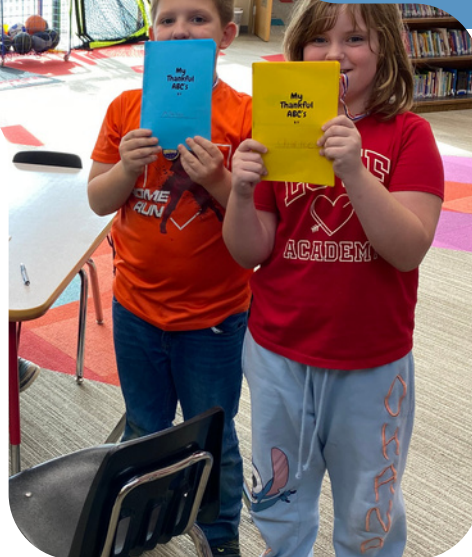
MISSION AND VISION



Mission: The Youth Services team strives to provide the support our students need to succeed by making sure students 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.



Vision: Supplement and/or enhance the educational services to all Tribal students within Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Develop coordinated services and partnerships with local school districts, Tribal Court and other relevant programs or organizations that promote student success and reduce truancy and absenteeism.



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”.

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 to access a fillable 506 form.





WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



New Staff!



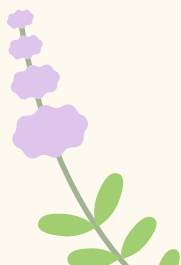
Title VI is excited to welcome our newest Indian Education Coordinator, Jenna Wells, to the team! Jenna previously served as a Teacher's Assistant at Pendleton Early Learning Center and most recently as an Intervention Instructor at Sherwood Heights Elementary. She brings valuable experience working with students, a positive attitude, and a genuine passion for supporting the success and well-being of our children. We are thrilled to have her join our team! During the 2026-2027 school year, Jenna will be serving students at Pilot Rock and Sherwood.



New Staff Placements

Title VI recognizes that consistency is invaluable. It is essential when making connections and building relationships with students and staff and it plays a significant role in our ability to effectively support student success. At the same time, we also recognize that finding the best fit between coordinators and the schools they serve is just as important. That said, consistency may not always be reflected in the individual coordinator serving a school, but in the Title VI program's commitment to ensuring every student has access to dedicated support throughout their academic journey. Our goal is to provide every school with a dedicated, compassionate, knowledgeable, and student-centered Indian Education Coordinator who is committed to building positive relationships and supporting the academic, cultural, and personal success of every student. As we continue to recruit and retain highly qualified staff, coordinator placements may be adjusted until we are fully staffed and confident that each school-coordinator partnership is the best possible fit.

Whether or not your student's school currently has an assigned coordinator, the Title VI team is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or if there is any way we can assist your student or family. We appreciate your flexibility, partnership, and trust as we continue strengthening our program to best serve our students and communities.



MEET YOUR INDIAN EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Avery Jones



Sunridge Middle School - Full Time

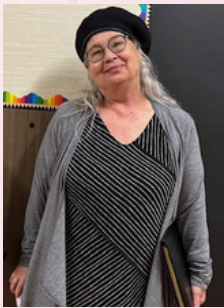
Avery Jones: 541-975-8455
averyjones@ctuir.org
ajones@pendletonsd.org

Sunridge student count: ~108

Years with Title VI: 2 years

"I love seeing the dedication our team brings to the students. It's also incredibly rewarding to watch their growth, follow their educational journey, and to see them flourish."

Gayla Blankenship



Washington Elementary School - Full Time

Gayla Blankenship: 541-975-0520
gaylablankenship@ctuir.org
gblankenship@pendletonsd.org

Washington student count: ~118

Years with Title VI: 3 years

When asked what her favorite part of working with Title VI is, Gayla responded: I would have to send pictures of student's smiling faces.

Kelly Woods

Nixyaawii Community School - M & T Pendleton HS - W, Th, F

Kelly Woods: 541-969-7864
kellywoods@ctuir.org
kelly.woods@athwestsd.org

PHS student count: ~72

NCS student count: ~46

Years with Title VI: 7 months

"I enjoy teaming up with teachers, staff, our community, and students of all ages while collaborating across districts and CTUIR departments. Celebrating our rich cultural activities. It's what makes an engaging, welcoming school environment and working under the Title VI program so rewarding."

Jenna Wells

Pilot Rock SD - M & T Sherwood Elementary - W, Th, F

Jenna Wells: 541-215-5461
Jennawells@ctuir.org
jwells@pendletonsd.org

Pilot Rock student count: ~18

Years with Title VI: NEW

"My favorite part of working with Title VI students is being able to create positive experiences and watching the students learn and grow. I enjoy working with such an amazing and supportive team."

Title VI Youth Services Program

2026-2027

School Year Calendar

August 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Round Up
- Spring Break
- Holiday
- Winter Break
- Quarterly Parent Meeting/Public Hearing
- PSD In-Service
- AW In-Service
- Pilot Rock In-Service
- Monday Late Starts

PENDLETON DATES

PSD NO SCHOOL

8/27 - First Day

11/2 - 11/5 - Evening Conferences

11/6 - Conferences - No School

6/23 - Last Day of School - 2hr early release

PILOT ROCK DATES

8/24 - First Day

9/17 - Half day Round Up

10/29 - End of QT1 and half day PM conferences

10/30 - AM Conferences

11/21 - End of QT2 (Sem1)

4/8 - End of QT3 and half day PM conferences

4/9 - AM Conferences

5/27 - Seniors Last Day

6/5 - Graduation

ATHENA WESTON DATES

8/31 - First Day

10/30 - End of QT1

11/6 - Conferences

11/23 - Conferences

1/22 - End of QT2

4/02 - End of QT3

6/04 - End of QT4

REMINDER!

CULTURAL LEAVE FORM

The Cultural Leave Form is available to families to fill out when their student will be absent from school for hunting, fishing, gathering, and ceremonies.

To access a fillable form, scan the QR code below. In order to reach the fillable version, you will need to download the form. You can also obtain the form on our website or even fill it out right on the web page (coming soon)!



SCAN ME

Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation
Department of Education



46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801
www.ctuir.org email: education@ctuir.org
(541) 276-3165 fax (541) 276-3095

Cultural Leave Form

Student Name: _____ Date: _____
Grade Level: _____ School Attending: _____
Tribal Affiliation: _____ Enrolled ☐ Descendent ☐
If the student is a descendant, who is the individual with Tribal membership?
☐ Student's parent ☐ Student's aunt/uncle
☐ Student's grandparent ☐ Other blood relative
Parent/guardian: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
What is the cultural event?
Hunting/fishing/gathering ☐
Ceremony (feasts, memorials, name givings, medicine dances, healing ceremonies) ☐
Is the cultural event out of town? Yes ☐ No ☐
How many days will the student be out of school? _____
Proposed date back: _____
Has preparatory homework been requested? Yes ☐ No ☐
Parent/guardian signature: _____

Please return this form to your Title VI Coordinator or the school secretary.

If you fill out the fillable form, you can return it to the schools front office, to the assigned coordinator, or email it Kendallrosario@ctuir.org.

The form is not required but it does provide clear communication to the schools, so the students do not mistakenly receive absences for cultural events.



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Academic

6th–8th Grade

Academic Check-In & Resource Mapping

Coordinators will meet with students one-on-one or in groups to review schedules, identify challenges, and map supports using a “Circle of Support” worksheet.

Time Management Activity

Students will be provided with blank planners that they can set up and decorate. The goal is to encourage the use of planners/calendars for time management to increase productivity.

Enhancing Executive Functioning

K–8th Grade

Memory Path (working memory)

Students will be shown a sequence of photos for 15 seconds and will be asked to match the pictures in the order that they saw them. The goal is to enhance student’s ability to recall information.



Cultural

All Grades

Cultural Connections Bingo

Students will be given a bingo card that they will carry with them throughout the week. The goal is for students to interact with their peers and learn things about them while filling out their bingo card. Once the student has a bingo, they can bring the card back to the IEC for a prize!

Time Management Activity

Students will be provided with blank planners that they can set up and decorate. The goal is to encourage the use of planners/calendars for time management to increase productivity.

9 Tribes Wordsearch

Students will be given word searches in a group setting. IECs can make this a contest or just a time spent doing a wordsearch while learning about the 9 Tribes of Oregon.

“Who am I” Identity Badges

Students will fill out an “Identity Exploration Exercise” which asks to describe parts of their identity and what it means to them. Badges will be posted on a cork board at the respective schools.

Cultural Kits

These will be based on the IEC decision but can include anything from drum making to village kits to beadwork or baskets. There are several options for staff to choose from.

Other

We will be doing a logo activity where students create a logo for the Title VI Program. When the logo is chosen, we will reach out to parents/guardians to ensure they are ok with us using their student’s art as our logo!



August Note

Coordinators will send out Back-to-School folders which include a welcome letter, Meet the IEC page, and other resources. The goal is to work on getting to know the students in preparation for the rest of the year.

2026-2027

TITLE VI YOUTH SERVICES BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT



Come join the fun while we welcome all of our families back to school! Event is for Title VI K-12 students and families. If you have not completed a 506 eligibility form, you may do so at the event.

Theme: Passport to Success!

Students will walk through several stations earning stamps on their passport and be entered into a raffle! Get some free swag, play some games, and pick up some good resources to help this school year run smoothly for your family!

Dinner Provided: Mazatlán

Raffle prizes include a Kindle, premium backpacks, Stanley Tumbler, Polaroid camera, kids binos, Family Adventure Book, and more!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Nixyaawii Education
Commons



FOR QUESTIONS



541-429-7887



Kendallrosario@ctuir.org

Title VI Parent Meetings



Parent Meetings will be in person this year, as well as recorded and uploaded to the website.

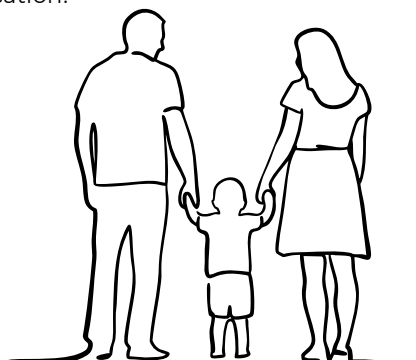
Why Attend Parent Meetings?

Parent meetings are an opportunity to stay informed, share your ideas, and partner with us to support student success. When families participate, they help shape programs, activities, and services that better meet the needs of our students and community.

By attending, you can:

- Learn about upcoming programs, events, and opportunities.
- Receive important updates about student services and resources.
- Share your feedback and help guide future planning.
- Connect with other families and program staff.
- Ask questions and learn about ways to support your child's education and well-being.

Your perspective matters. Whether you attend every meeting or are joining us for the first time, your voice helps us create stronger programs and better opportunities for our students. We hope you'll join us and be part of the conversation!



Parent Meetings happen quarterly, or three times per school year.

September 9th: Back-to-School Event

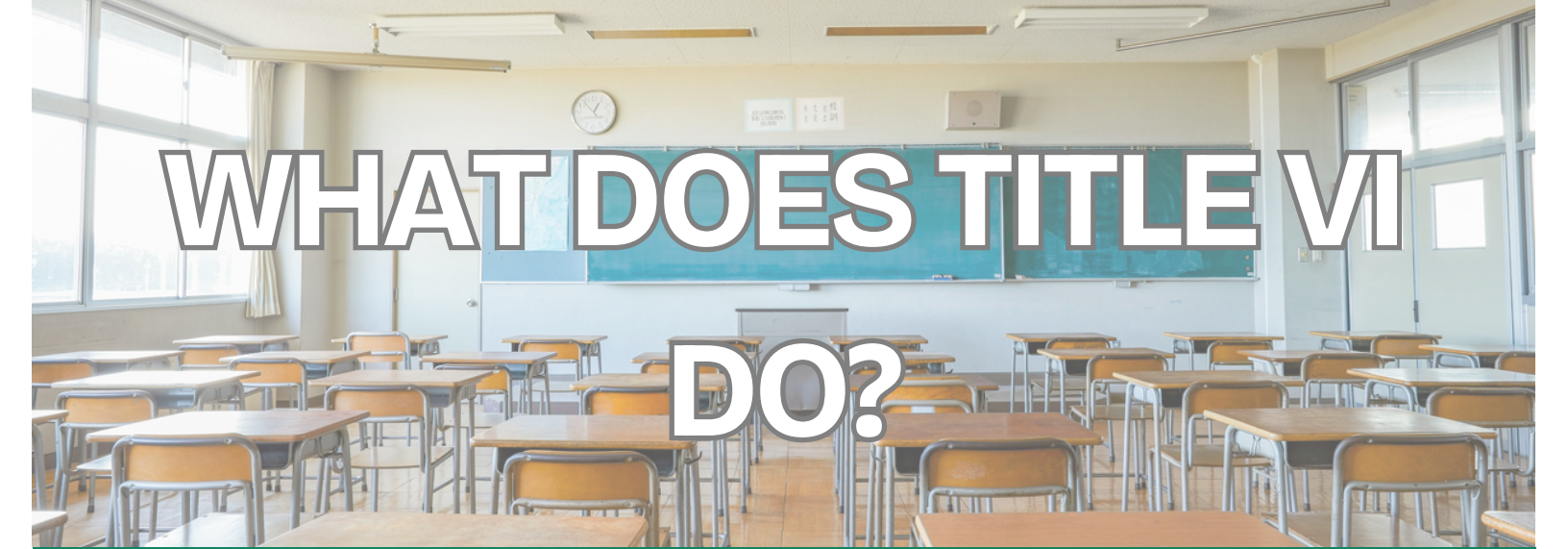
December 9th: Halfway Point: Supporting Student Success

April 7th: The Final Chapter: Celebrating Progress & Planning Forward

All details for each meeting will be provided in the newsletter the month prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to provide feedback on discussion topics before or after quarterly meetings, please use this link to access the Quarterly Parent Meeting Response Center: [Response Center](#) or scan the QR code below:





WHAT DOES TITLE VI DO?

Grant Objectives

- 1.) Increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness
- 2.) Increase academic achievement
- 3.) Increase school attendance
- 4.) Increase graduation rates

Program Structure

Coordinators follow an established activity plan which includes activities that fall under academic, cultural, social-emotional learning, and enhancing executive functioning. All activities are the same for each school.

What Else Do We Do?

- Coordinators track grades and attendance as a tool to figure out what supports the students need to succeed.
- We connect students and families with resources that will help them reach their goals.
 - Family Engagement
 - Family Strengths
 - IMESD services
- We also connect families to truancy and DCFS as needed.
- We work with students 1:1 or in groups with academics when available or appropriate.
- We attend MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support), IEP, or other meetings when appropriate
- We may assist in the classroom when available or appropriate.

What Don't We Do

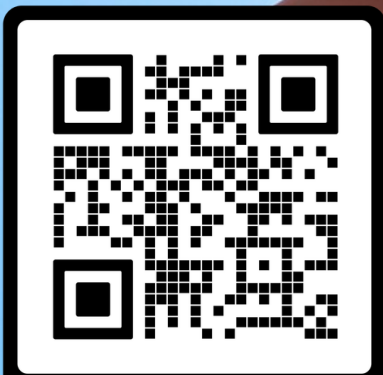
- We do not interfere with, enforce, or interpret, the schools' policies or procedures regarding behavior, discipline, or other topics.
- We do not moderate or facilitate during the school's disciplinary process
- We do not replace parental engagement
- We are not tutors, behavior specialists, school psychologists, interventionists, or the like.
- We do not transport students to or from school or provide individual assistance to students or families.

STAY CONNECTED!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE
USE THE QR CODE TO TAKE THE NEEDS
ASSESSMENT SO WE KNOW HOW WE
CAN BETTER SERVE THE STUDENTS IN
OUR COMMUNITY.

If you would like to receive the
newsletter directly to your
email, please scan the QR
below:



SCAN ME

CHECK OUT WEBSITE TO VIEW THE
MOST RECENT PARENT MEETING
WEBINAR, PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS,
AND OTHER INFORMATION!