



Request for Proposal

Evaluation

Raven Writes: Expanding Culturally Responsive Writing Instruction Throughout Southeast Alaska (RWE)

Sealaska Heritage Institute is a private nonprofit founded in 1980 to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska. Its goal is to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding through public services and events. Sealaska also conducts social, scientific and public policy research and advocacy that promote Alaska Native arts, cultures, history and education statewide. The institute is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Council of Traditional Scholars, an Education Committee, a Native Artist Committee and a Southeast Regional Language Committee.

SHI is requesting proposals from a qualified consultant or consultants interested in evaluating the Raven Writes: Expanding Culturally Responsive Writing Instruction Throughout Southeast Alaska (RWE)

Evaluations will need to be designed based on valid and reliable measurements tools as well as collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data. Evaluator are expected to participate as members of the leadership team and attend relevant program meetings and events.

Overview

The overall goal of the project is to meet the needs of AN students in improving their proficiency in writing through a culturally relevant curriculum centered on experiences of harvesting and preparing traditional foods and products and is guided by two strategic questions: (1) What are the lessons-learned from RWE that can inform the design and implementation of future pedagogy for teaching writing in our AN communities? and (2) How can the lessons learned from RWE be applied to other AN and Indigenous communities?

To what extent does Raven Writes meet the needs of Alaska Native students in developing and improving their proficiency in writing through a culturally relevant curriculum centered on shared experiences of harvesting and preparing traditional foods and plants?

RQ1: Engagement- To what extent does *RWE* cultivate student engagement in writing with culturally responsive tools, instructional methods, and materials to yield greater proficiency in ELA, and greater overall educational success for AN students?

Key Performance Measures	Data Gathering	Analysis & Reporting
Outcome 1.1: Each year students will, on the average, increase their pre-test to post-test gains by 10% on the ThinkSRSD Writing Scale. Baseline established on the pre-test in Year 1.	Coaches & teachers gather grade level pre- and post- writing assessment data.	Evaluator analyzes and summarizes quantitative data, relating results to activities and outputs.
Outcome 1.2: After three years in RWE, student cohorts will show an average increase of 5% on the AK STAR ELA assessment scores.	Evaluator gathers AK STAR scores by grades and subgroup from AK DEED and districts.	Evaluator tabulates quantitative gains in ELA proficiency and reports by school and grade in both data charts and summary.

RQ 2: Professional Development- To what extent does RWE provide support for teachers to integrate Raven Writes fully into the K-5 ELA curricula, enabling enhanced writing instruction with culturally responsive content, methods, and traditional cultural harvesting and preparation?

Key Performance Measures	Data Gathering	Analysis & Reporting
Outcome 2.1: Annually, 80% of participating teachers report an increase in their confidence in teaching a culturally relevant curriculum.	Evaluator designs Teacher Survey of Cultural Confidence (TSCC) examining the impact of specific inputs to teacher	Evaluator synthesizes qualitative results of surveys and reports on elements most contributing to change.



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Outcome 2.2: Annually, 80% of participating teachers report an increase in their confidence in serving AN students.	confidence in (1) delivering culturally relevant curriculum; and (2) serving AN students.	
RQ 3: Community and Cultural Involvement- To what extent does RWE enhance the involvement of AN families and communities, and increase connectedness between home and school?		
Key Performance Measures	Data Gathering	Analysis & Reporting
Outcome 3.1: The percentage of AN Families reporting increases in their connections to their children's school will increase by 10% by the end of Year 3, on 3 key items of the Alaska School Climate and Connectedness Survey: <i>(1) The school values the language and culture of my family. (2) The school teaches about the history and culture of people who live in my community. (3) I see my family's culture represented in class lessons, materials, posters, and art around the school.</i>	Districts throughout Alaska issue a digital School Climate and Connectedness Survey. SHI will strongly market the SCCS survey among our AN constituents and the evaluator will gather their data. Evaluator will conduct interviews with family members during at least one camp each year.	Evaluator tabulates quantitative results of the SCCS key items and relates the results to <i>RWE</i> activities and outputs. Evaluator will provide a narrative summary of qualitative family interviews.
Outcome 3.2: 80% of students in RW Camps will have at least one family member attend a family celebration.	SHI will strongly market Family Celebrations, collect sign in sheets at each celebration, and gather brief evaluations of	Evaluator analyzes and summarizes qualitative family evaluations of each event.



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	families' experiences at the events. Evaluator will provide and collect sign in sheets for each family event.	Evaluator will tabulate quantitative data for family engagement and participation.
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Project Timeline

The grant is a three-year award. The selected evaluator is expected to commit the Project evaluation for three years, but the contract will be reviewed and renewed at the end of each year. This consultancy should begin as soon as possible and be completed no later than July 1, 2028.

Required Qualifications

- Experience as program evaluator and author of evaluation reports necessary for federal reporting as well as internal evaluation for program effectiveness and impacts.
- Demonstrated knowledge and use of appropriate evaluation tools, best practices for evaluation implementation and analysis and reporting of collected data.
- Knowledge of Indigenous evaluation methodologies
- Knowledge of Alaska Native culture and education

Preferred Qualifications

- Background in education
- Understanding of Literacy programs
- Understanding of SHI programs
- Understanding of Culturally Relevant programs
- Understanding of teacher professional learning and implementation

To Submit Proposal

- Proposal (2 page limit) outlining how the above tasks would be performed and qualifications
- Estimate of fees to perform services
- Resume of all consultants who would be involved in the project
- Contact information for 3 organizations you've evaluated projects



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Please send proposals to Jamie Shanley, Interim Education Director –
Jamie.Shanley@sealaskaheritage.com by Sept. 19, 2025.