

Blackfoot Language Immersion Classroom

K.W. Bergan School, Browning, MT

INSTRUCTOR: MRS CAROLYN ZUBACK



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Data on native languages survival rates:

- ❑ 300 tribal languages of North America exist prior to European settlement. At beginning of 21st century, there are just 150 of those languages left. Most of these are in a steep decline.
- ❑ Mission and government boarding school eradicated our tribal languages. President Ulysses Grant stated: "Schools should be established, which (Indian) children should be required to attend; their barbarous dialect should be blotted out and the English language substituted."
- ❑ In 1990 Census: Crow Tribe in Montana had 4,200 speaker out of the 9,800 enrolled numbers; Navajo or Dine Tribe counts 150,000 speakers out of about 220,000 members.

However, all other tribes: the number of speakers are dropping quickly in the hundreds, the tens and the single digits.

Aapaapaitsitapiipokaiksi



Schedule for Immersion kindergarten

BLACKFEET IMMERSION PROGRAM
KW BERGEN KINDERGARTEN

August 28, 2015

BLACKFEET LANGUAGE TEACHER: MRS CAROLYN ZUBACK KINDERGARTEN TEACHER: MRS JESSICA EDWARD

•Project Background and Description

This is the first year the Browning Public Schools have introduced the young students to the Blackfeet Immersion Classroom.

•Project Scope

The goal is to encourage, support and teach the Blackfeet Immersion students to be proficient in the Blackfeet language. It is of great importance to teach the young children today to speak and understand the Blackfeet language. Students are learning:

•The Calendar: Monday – Issikatoyiksistsiko Tuesday- Itaisstatsikinikiop Wednesday- Itaisstatsikistsiniop Thursday- Namiksistsiko Friday- Itainikiop

•Months: January- Kaatoyii meaning: helps eat February- Saomitsi ki somm meaning: unreliable moon

March- Sai aiksi Otsistaotohpi April- Matsiyi kaa pisa tosi meaning: Frog month

May- Otsi ki ts meaning: When the Buffalo flower grows June: Mi som soo tayi meaning: when the long rains come July Itoh toyii to si waa ma ta pii wa meaning: when the people move together

August Pakki pisti Otsaitaitseh'p September Itowa pi pits sko meaning: When the leaves turn yellow October Saiaiksi Itomatoyi meaning: When the geese leave November li tom' moh koh poota meaning: when the snow comes December Oots st menaing: when the cold comes

•Good Morning: litaamiikskanoatooni How are you today: Tsa ni tapi anoh ksiskahno toonii

•I am so happy to see you: Kiitsiitsimahttsinohpowa

•I will see you later: Kiitak ki ta maht tsin

•Listen to the speaker, do not speak. Isstsii yiiik miinahtsiipoyit

•Look at me: Nooh'k samm mo kitt

•Do you hear me: Kii tiy yoh' tsim'p

Numbers

•1- 20 Nitokska, natooka, niokska, niisoo, nisito, naoo, Ihkitsika, naniisoo, Pihksoo, Niippo, Niitsikopotto, Nattsikopotto, niikopotto, niisiikipotto, niisistsiikopottak, naikopotto, ihkitsikopotto, naniisikopotto, Pihksikopotto, Naatsippo etc...

•Colors: gray likitsinnaatssi Brown Apoyinnaatssi Green Saisskimokoinnaatssi Purple Koomoininnaatssi Yellow Ootahkoinnaatssi Orange Oatahkooinnaatssi Blue Ottsskoinnaatssi

Red Moahksinnaatssi Pink Ikinnaatssi Black Siksinnaatssi White sikssiinnaatssi

•Bodyparts; Head Mohtakan Hair Nootahkani face Moostooksis nose Mohksisis ears Kooh'tookiiks

Mouth Moyii neck mookookinn hand motsis legs Mohkatsis foot Mohkat teeth Koohpiikiists

•Short Phrases: Niitakitapoo Makapoyis May I go to the restroom

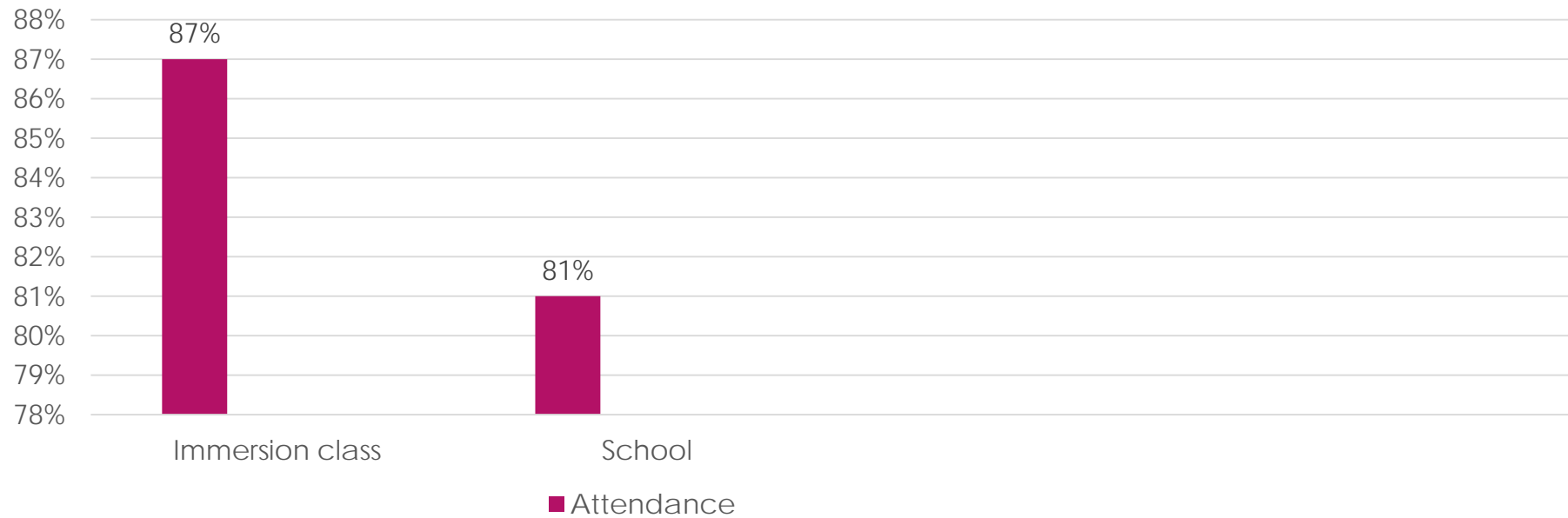
Niitaksimii Oohki May I have a drink of water Ikkstoyi ksis tsi ko

Kindergarten Instructional Schedule

8:00- 8:30	Breakfast	
8:35- 9: 20	Short prep	
9:20-11:00 95 min.	Blackfeet Kindergarten Immersion class.	
11:00- 11:45	Lunch	
12:00-12:50 50 min	Mrs Edwards class Immersion Students math.	
12:50-1:00	Short Prep for Specials students	
1:00- 1:45	Specials with students Blackfoot language/ Culture	
1:45- 2:30	Specials with students Blackfoot language/ Culture	
2:30- 3:15	Specials with students Blackfoot language/ Culture	
3:15- 4:00	Prep time.	

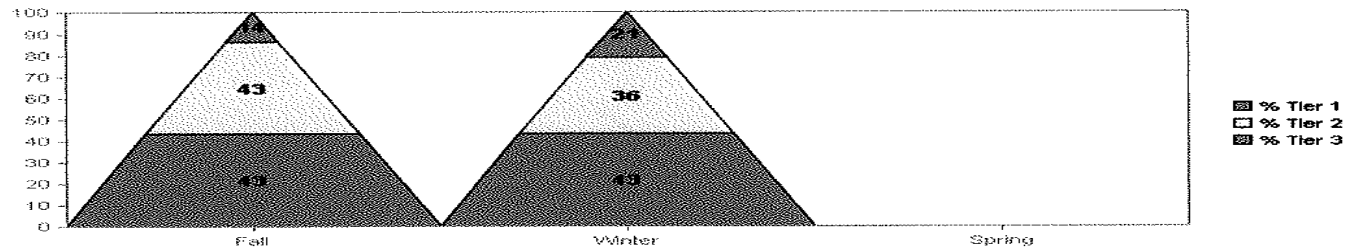
Attendance Data

Immersion vs. Rest of School

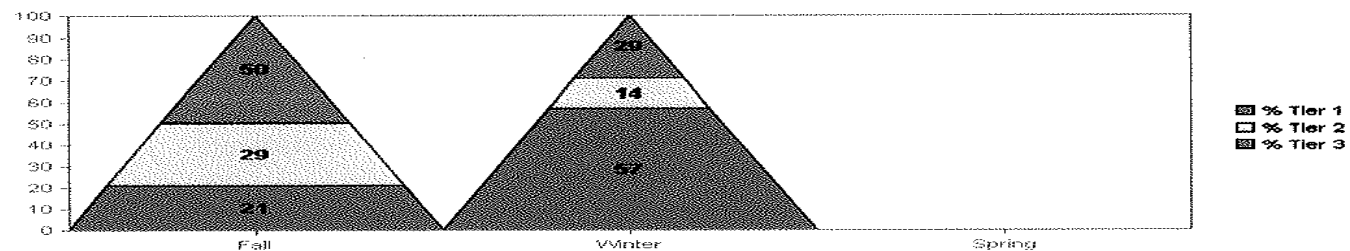


Blackfeet Language Immersion Classroom Aimsweb Math Data 2015-2016

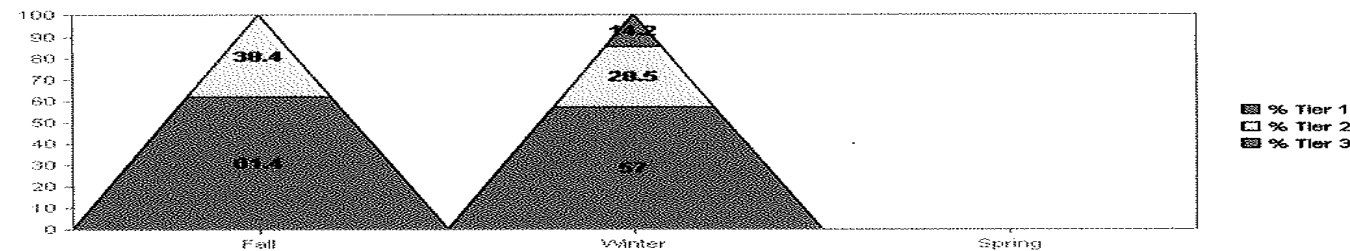
Number Identification Measure



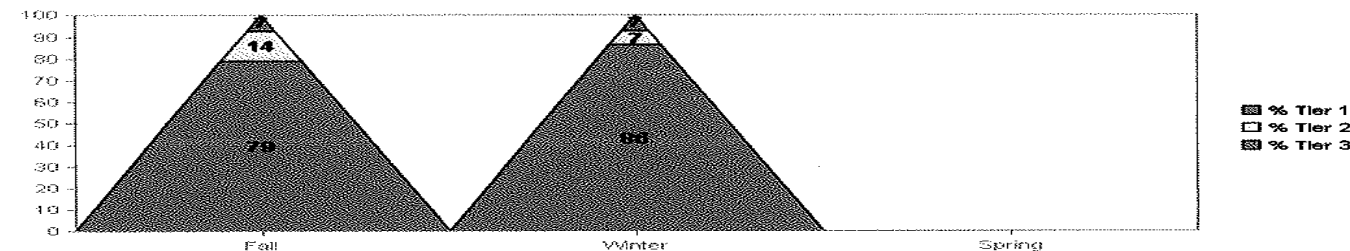
Oral Counting Measure



Quantity Discrimination Measure

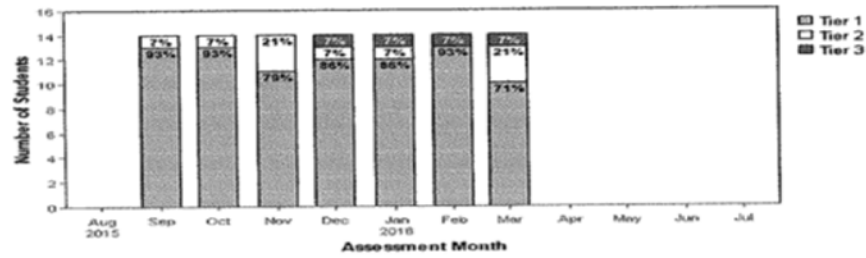


Missing Number Measure

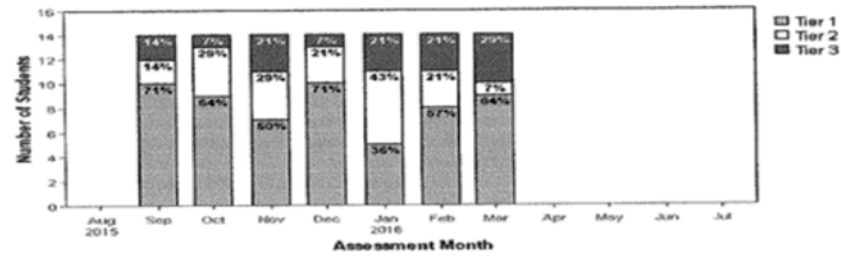


Blackfeet Language Immersion Classroom Isip Data 2015-2016

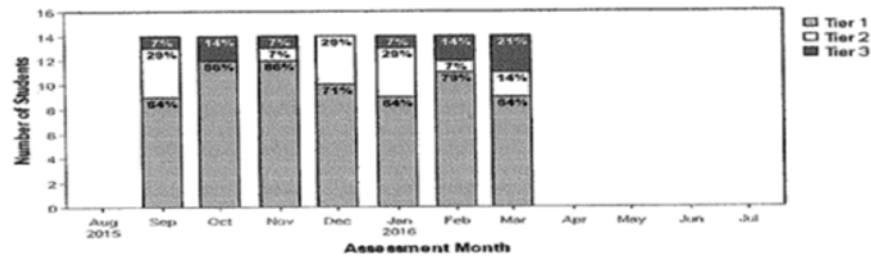
All Grades - Listening Comprehension



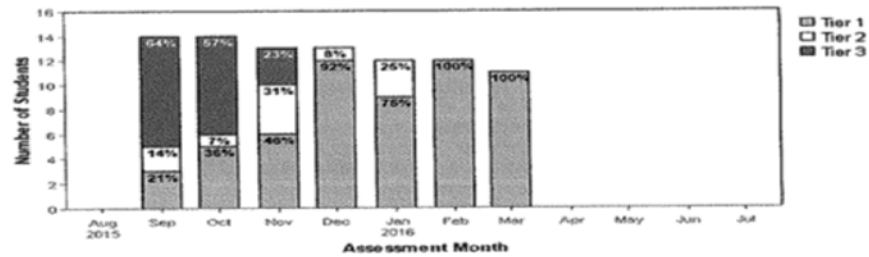
All Grades - Vocabulary

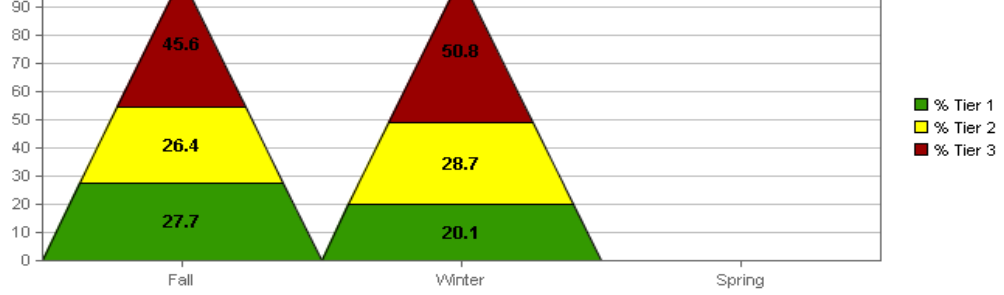


All Grades - Phonemic Awareness

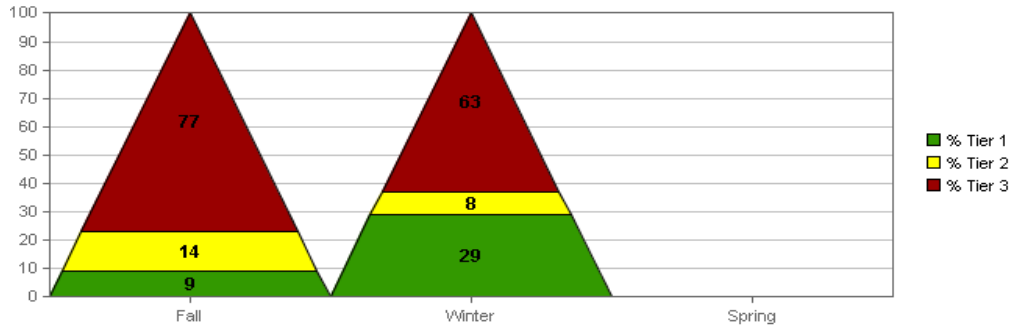


All Grades - Letter Knowledge

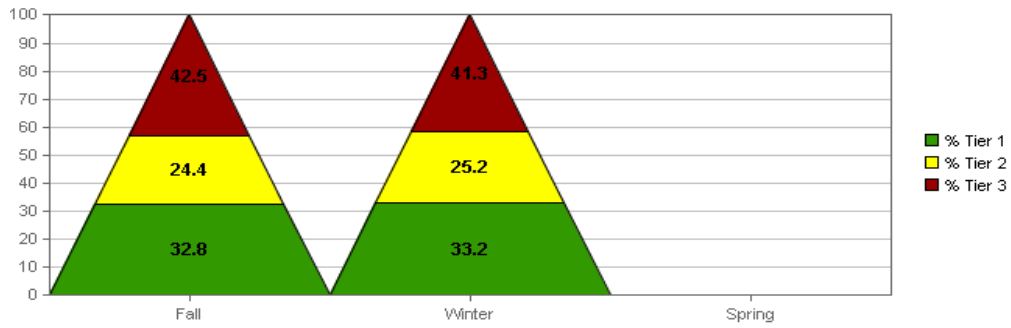




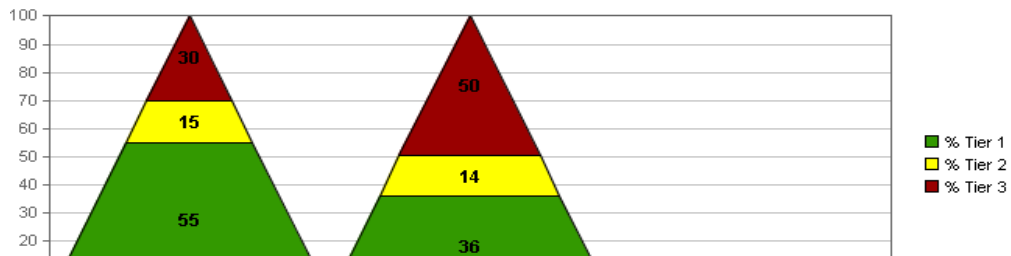
Oral Counting Measure



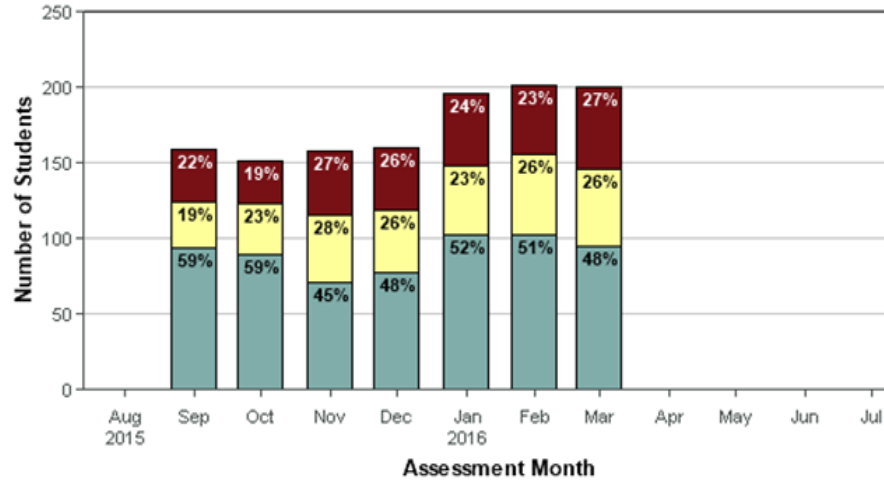
Quantity Discrimination Measure



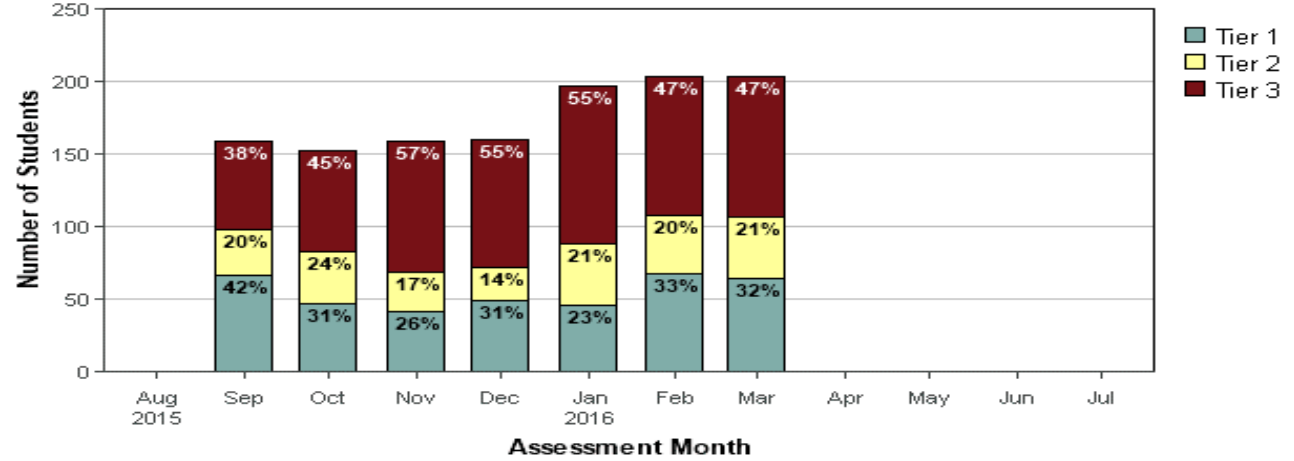
Missing Number Measure



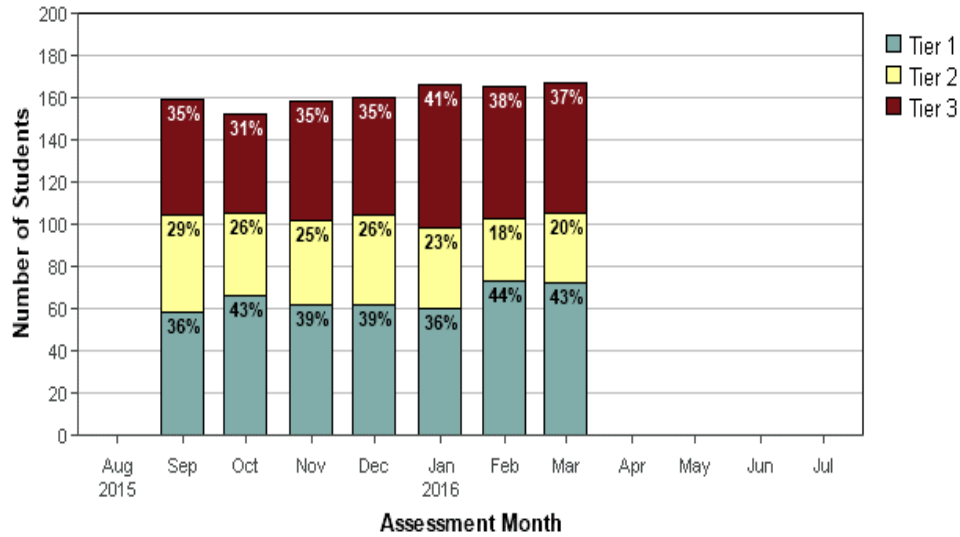
All Grades - Listening Comprehension



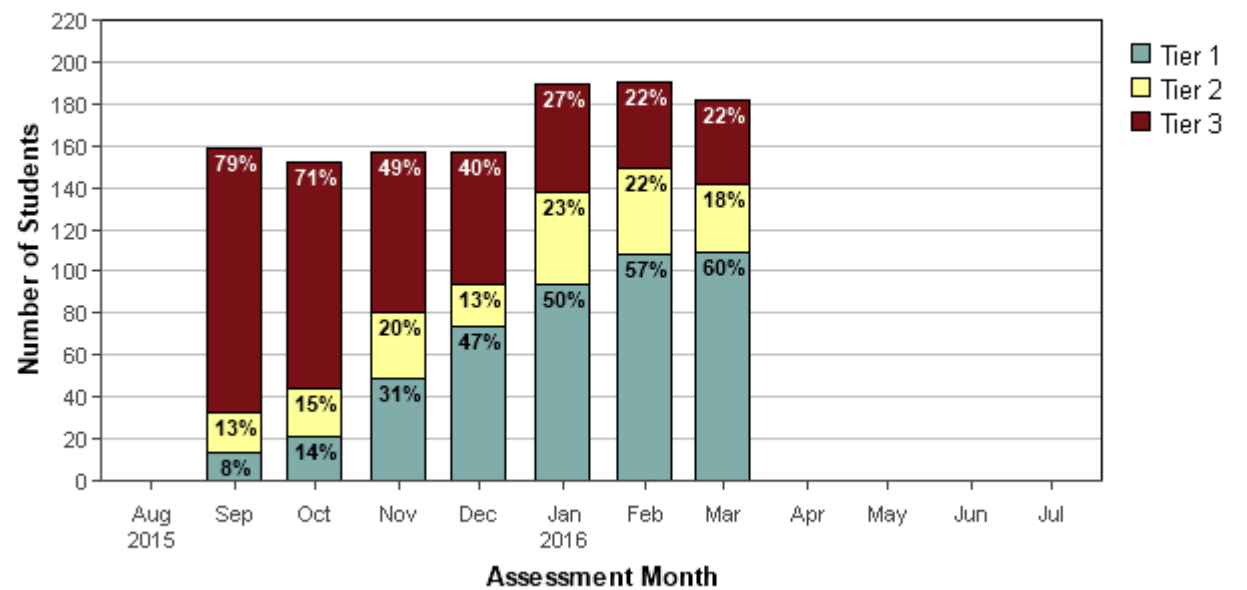
All Grades - Vocabulary



All Grades - Phonemic Awareness



All Grades - Letter Knowledge



Who are enrolled in Immersion Niitanh'ka toap

- ▶
- ▶ Holy Beaver Woman
- ▶ One who rows far
- ▶ linaksiipiita
- ▶ litsaipisatspii
- ▶ Natoyi Namoissistsi
- ▶ Naatsikaapoistsii
- ▶ Ksiksiinipiitaki
- ▶ Saamiikakato'saakii
- ▶ Isstoipiiksi
- ▶ Sinopaki
- ▶ Natowanski
- ▶ Ksiksikisoom
- ▶ Little Eagle
- ▶ Two Blades
- ▶ Medicine Star Woman
- ▶ Onistai pokaki
- ▶ Issoyi Staki
- ▶ Fox Woman
- ▶ I'na ko nistaki
- ▶ I'na ko nistaki
- ▶ Little Buffalo woman
- ▶ I'kinaisko'to
- ▶ White Moon
- ▶ Holy Hummingbird
- ▶ Maakaipii
- ▶ White Buffalo Eagle Girl
- ▶ Natoyiksisskstakiakii
- ▶ Aipiaahkiohsii
- ▶ off Shore Dancing
- ▶ Blizzard
- ▶ White Calf Woman
- ▶ Edge of Mountain
- ▶ Little Bird
- ▶ Gently Comes Back
- ▶ Naamoissttsiikii
- ▶ Little Humming Bird

The world is our classroom.



Four Components that make us unique

- ▶ Language
- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Creation Stories

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- ▶ “Never disgrace our language with debate.” Darrell R. Kipp
- ▶ In spite of efforts of the federal government to eradicate the Indian person and their native language, cultural ways and way of knowing; many tribal languages survived. The Native Languages Act of 1990 vowed to “preserve, protect and promote” tribal languages and tribal people once again gained rights to speak and teach tribal languages.
- ▶ However, tribes are racing against time, many elders are gone. Challenges are again before us. Native language revitalization is a huge task.

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- ▶ Show, don't tell. Don't talk about what you will do. Do it and show it. This is what they are ultimately going to listen to—not your words, but to the abilities of the children.
- ▶ Language learning and communicating in the language carries with it a significant form of satisfaction to all participants—children, themselves, their families and the elders of the community.
- ▶ Youth language speakers participate in tribal ceremonies and public events and become contributors to the vitality of the community.

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- ▶ Native language immersion is a practice or methodology of language learning that concentrates on communication, exclusively in the native language.
- ▶ Total Physical Response TPR is utilize as one of the language learning strategies based on commands, internalizing the language and starting with the home environment.

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- ▶ We are a different organization than most. Our immersion schools look like schools, but in reality, they are a whole different thing with very different dynamics and a need for a very different structure.
- ▶ Native language immersion has made astounding records of educational achievement among children and youth who participate in language immersion education.
- ▶ Students learn traditional Native skills, art and knowledge as well as academic subjects areas, taught exclusively in the medium of the Native language.

Pro and Cons of the Immersion Program

► Pros

Data/ Attendance

Student language increased

Community tribal Support

50/50 balance provided

Students do well academically

Positive Cultural Awareness

Cons

Limited resources

lack of funding

Decrease in fluent speakers

Accreditation

Parent Involvement

Immersion Education in Montana

- ▶ Jonathan Windy Boy, a Democratic state senator and a Chippewa Cree Indian, sponsored the immersion bill. "We're investing in a population of this state that has been neglected for too long," he says. "Investing in those human resources, I think ... is going to be the best investment that we can provide for all of Montana to be a better place to live in."

Children Pouches



Kiitakitamatsinoh' powa
Until we meet again.

