

# THE ONLY LAKOTA IMMERSION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE SICANGU OYATE



# WAKANYEJA KI TOKEYAHCI

## Lakota Students Deserve a Lakota Education

At Wakanyeya ki Tokeyahci, that's exactly what they get! The school was founded with these four focus areas.



As Lakota, we believe that we are all related and that it is our duty to create a better world for future generations.

At the Sicangu Education Initiative, we do that by providing a holistic education that centers our students' Lakota identity and values.

Our elementary school, Wakanyeya ki Tokeyachi Wounspe Tipi (WT) opened in 2020 and offers a rigorous immersive Lakota education for pre-K to 2nd grade students. We will expand to more grade levels in the future.

Our vision is that our children will stand with everything Lakota, and will be prepared to take on anything.



[www.sicangu.co/wakanyeya](http://www.sicangu.co/wakanyeya)



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*We are reclaiming our future with the education of our children.*



## The Need

The current education system is not working for Lakota students, families, and communities. Not only are academic outcomes among the lowest in the country, but the Lakota language and way of life is being lost, and our students' mental health is suffering.

For generations, Lakota people had a strong education system that effectively conveyed practical skills and knowledge, shared cultural values, and instilled a sense of self-worth and identity. Wakanyeja Tokeyahci works to revitalize these principles of Lakota education within a modern context.

### Academic Preparedness

We maintain rigorous academic standards in addition to our emphasis on Lakota language and culture. Our students are equipped with skills to succeed in the 21st century while carrying on their culture and language.

### Holistic Wellness and Leadership

Our instruction and values prioritize relationships and empower students to understand their interrelatedness with each other and the world. The emphasis on social development builds empathy, problem solving skills, and critical thinking ability.

### Lakota Language and Culture

The medium language of Wakanyeja Tokeyahci is Lakota and our values are infused into everything we do. Our language is in danger of becoming extinct within a generation and our students give us hope that we can reverse that trend.

### Indigenous Identity

When students see themselves and their culture in the curriculum, it affirms their identities. At WT, we prioritize the importance of identity and of ensuring that students' experiences in school affirm and build healthy identities.

