



ᏚᏍᏗᏰᏃᏁᏍᏗ ᏚᏍᏗᏰᏃᏁᏍᏗ

OUR UNIFIED LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

ᏚᏍᏗᏰᏃᏁᏍᏗ ᏚᏍᏗᏰᏃᏁᏍᏗ will develop and establish:

- A coordinated, standardized Cherokee language curriculum available for each level of educational language learning (early childhood, elementary, high school, and college);
- A Cherokee Language Board to oversee the collaborative effort of the Cherokee Nation's language programs resulting in a united vision, implementation, and mission of all; and,
 - A Cherokee Nation Cherokee Language Teacher Certification to solidify the standards of proficiency for those teaching Cherokee. This will generate a more thorough maintenance of language learning and better develop the skills of teachers and students alike, thus, providing a stronger foundation for language preservation.

ᏚᏍᏗᏁᏍᏗ ᏚᏍᏗᏁᏍᏗ

OUR UNIFIED LANGUAGE CURRICULUM

MISSION

Cherokee Nation recognizes the responsibility of our birthright and is committed to preserving, revitalizing and perpetuating the culture through our language for all generations.

VISION

The vision of the Cherokee Language Program Committee is that in 20 years, Cherokee communities are living, speaking and thinking in Cherokee and that Cherokee is the first language of the Cherokee Nation. Cherokee will be the language of politics, business and leadership. The Cherokee language will be studied and understood as any other modern language. The sphere of language will expand through all media forms and we will reach out and support any other native language groups. Children will be raised in Cherokee, and language services will be targeted for all ages and in all districts with areas zoned for Cherokee language habitat readily available to support language growth inside and outside intentional language communities.

SCOPE

The scope of this project is to develop a vibrant Cherokee language community, to return the Cherokee language to the home, and to increase the effectiveness of the Cherokee Nation language programs through strategy and curriculum.

By the end of this, we will have:

- Trust of Cherokee communities & Cherokee speakers
- Strengthened tribal government through greater identity, language and culture
- Tribal self-sufficiency and strong relationships with federal government, state governments, other tribal governments and educational institutions
- Improved outreach programs that reflect Cherokee values, language and culture

At the end of this, the Cherokee Nation will experience:

- Programming shifts from language enrichment and partial immersion to total immersion
- Increased focus from language enrichment to language acquisition
- Cherokee becomes the first language of the home
- Cherokee becomes the language of business, in and throughout the Cherokee Nation

The vitality of the Cherokee language will be:

ESTEEMED

Goal 1: The Cherokee language will be held with high regard and respect.

Objective A: Cherokee communities will be engaged with a dual focus on elder women and emerging young leaders.

***Outcome:** Communities will be identified, solicited, and engaged to provide elder women and young community leaders for local and centralized leadership meetings.*

Objective B: Cherokee Nation and its entities will model for the communities an active and strong will to honor our birthright to speak Cherokee.

***Outcome:** Promote and publicize Cherokee speakers and highly proficient Cherokee language learning young people at work, in media, and at employee appreciation events.*

***Outcome:** Create, sustain, and expand media platforms to engage in Cherokee language programming on all viable media.*

Objective C: Cherokee Nation and its entities will increase availability, accessibility and exposure to the Cherokee Language for all who seek it.

***Outcome:** Free Language Classes for all Cherokee citizens in all age groups with cumulative language levels, provided in person.*

***Outcome:** Free Language Classes for all Cherokee citizens in all age groups with cumulative language levels, provided online.*

RESPONSIBLE

Goal 2: Establish a concrete connection between Language and Community through self-help incentives and social services.

Objective A: Increase tribal funding initiatives to include language and culture regeneration.

***Outcome:** Increase percentage of Motor Vehicle Tax money earmarked for language and culture.*

***Outcome:** Increase language and culture required activities for public schools.*

Objective B: Link supplemental services to language accountability.

***Outcome:** Provide language accountability incentives for education services.*

Objective C: Foster self-sufficient geographical communities with a focus on language and culture revitalization.

***Outcome:** Support universal and unlimited language use among all community members, Cherokee and non-Cherokee, alike.*

***Outcome:** Supplement all tribal services for elder speakers, including housing and healthcare.*

CONCRETE

Goal 3: Cherokee Nation and its entities will prioritize the Cherokee language as primary through engaging in all forms of communication.

Objective A: Cherokee Nation and its entities will expand translation to provide support and create Cherokee language medium forms for all documents and publicized materials.

***Outcome:** Each program will have the staff and resources with the expertise and training to provide Cherokee language versions of all Cherokee Nation Documents.*

***Outcome:** Useful Cherokee literacy materials will be available for preservation and educational materials.*

Objective B: Cherokee Nation and its entities will endeavor to create Cherokee Language literature and materials for all relevant art forms and literacy platforms available.

***Outcome:** Cherokee Nation and its entities will provide a platform for the publication of original materials and translations of literature into the Cherokee language.*

***Outcome:** Cherokee Language will be supported in all digital and electronic platforms and provided within the organization for CN employees.*

Objective C: Cherokee Nation and its entities will utilize traditional Cherokee environmental priorities and values with all grounds and facilities.

***Outcome:** Each program will use indigenous plants when decorating (Vegetation Management Practices) their grounds and facilities.*

Outcome: *Cultural protocol followed in implementing, refurbishing, and restoring facilities and breaking new ground for construction with respect for spiritual practices of elders and in memory of those that may have human burial remains near our facilities.*

FAMILIAL

Goal 4: Cherokee Nation and its entities will openly support language cultivation initiatives by being inclusive of family and community partnerships and their direct involvement in CN governance and leadership.

Objective A: Cherokee Nation will create offices for language cultivation and services for Cherokee communities to strengthen individual community identity.

Outcome: *Each district will have an office with language programs and other services to meet community needs.*

Objective B: Cherokee Nation and its entities will reflect the social and cultural needs of communities to strengthen family and community identity.

Outcome: *Cherokee Head Starts will be using Cherokee in every center.*

Outcome: *Cherokee Language Schools will be established in each district.*

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation policy and procedure will reflect the kinship system of traditional Cherokee communities and spiritual systems.*

PRESERVED

Goal 5: Cherokee Nation and its entities will actively carry out the responsibility to protect Cherokee identity from exploitation, dissolution and work to undo colonial impacts and negative Cherokee responses to colonial pressure in families, communities and in the infrastructure in Cherokee Nation.

Objective A: Cherokee Nation will create laws and legislation to protect and promote Cherokee language and culture.

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation will enact another language act to ensure the longevity and active cultivation of the Cherokee Language.*

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation will make a Declaration of Emergency to recognize the endangered status of the Cherokee language and prioritize its cultivation and status.*

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation and its entities will zone areas and/or times to encourage Cherokee language use and protect the habitat of the endangered Cherokee language.*

Objective B: The Cherokee Nation will identify, respect and maintain the unique cultural identity of the Cherokee people.

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation will identify and list aspects of Cherokee identity that make us unique and these aspects will be integrated into all strategic initiatives.*

Outcome: *Culturally competent counselors and support groups available to meet the emotional support and healing needs of all Cherokee Employees and citizens.*

Outcome: *Cherokee Nation will implement Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centers built on passing down Cherokee language, culture, and values in Each District.*

Outcome: *Deference to cultural identity attributes will be integrated into Cherokee Nation policies and procedures.*

PROGRAMMATIC

Goal 6: Employees of Cherokee Nation and its entities will be engaged in Cherokee language speaking or learning as a part of professional practice.

Objective A: All employee Cherokee language and history classes and make them readily available to all employees and leaders of Cherokee Nation and its entities.

Outcome: *Each quarter cumulative and regular language classes for all CN employees and its leadership.*

Outcome: *Each quarter Cherokee employees and leaders will be offered subject specific history classes.*

Objective B: Clear incentives into place for employees and leaders who attend and graduate Cherokee Language and history classes.

Outcome: *All employees and leaders who choose to participate will have employee incentives or incentives tied to language proficiency levels.*

Outcome: *Budgets for financial incentives or Administrative Leave rewards available for graduates of Language and History courses.*

Objective C: A certain percentage of Cherokee speakers will be hired and/or facilitated via language acquisition, within each department of the Cherokee Nation and its entities.

***Outcome:** All employees and leaders who engage in Cherokee Employee language classes will receive language proficiency assessments.*

***Outcome:** All Cherokee Nation Departments will have a required percent of Cherokee Speakers Employed.*

***Outcome:** Every Cherokee Department will foster language study groups and intentional language job shadowing for participating employees and leaders.*

EDUCATIONAL

Goal 7: Cherokee Nation will control our own educational process for the benefit of the Cherokee people to ensure we maintain indigenous ways of knowing and indigenous knowledge.

Objective A: Cherokee Nation and its entities will incorporate respected elders, valued leaders, content experts and cultural values and attributes in staff development, education, and programmatic services.

***Outcome:** Establish rigorous and comprehensive criteria that meet our own tribally specific needs for accreditation, assessment, and certification purposes.*

***Outcome:** Create honored, valued, and respected placement and positions for elders, content experts and community leaders to participate as instructors in our educational programs and in our service, resource, and leadership departments.*

***Outcome:** Establish, and expand a Cherokee language medium tract, infant, through adulthood.*

***Outcome:** Establish and support our own Cherokee Nation Tribal University.*

Objective B: Cherokee Nation will establish and support a Cherokee language Center to maintain a centralized language cultivation facility to provide language acquisition environments and language instruction to Cherokee citizens.

***Outcome:** Comprehensive language education opportunities for personal and professional development for all citizens; and employees and leaders will have access for potential incentives/rewards for employee language merit programs.*

***Outcome:** Language learning will be successive, incremental, proficiency based, focused on language acquisition, and measurable.*