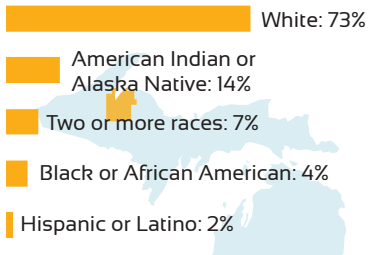


Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Baraga County Promise Neighborhood

Baraga County, Michigan

Community Composition



4
Schools

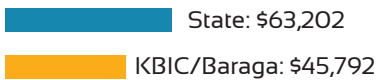


8,277
People in Footprint

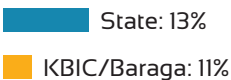


1,854
Children in Footprint

Median Household Income



Population Below Poverty Level



The Keweenaw (KEE-wi-naw) Bay Indian Community (KBIC) and Baraga (BAIR-ə-gə) County Promise Neighborhood is composed of the L'Anse [LÄNS] Reservation lands, trust lands, and Baraga County, where the L'Anse Reservation is located. KBIC is Michigan's oldest and largest federally recognized Tribe, situated in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan along the shores of Lake Superior. KBIC has built strong community partnerships to form this Promise Neighborhood to better meet the full continuum of needs of the children, youth, and families living in and around a remote Tribal community.

Pipeline

Early Childhood Education



28%
of children in Baraga County attended federal Head Start prior to kindergarten enrollment.

K-12 Education



78%
of Baraga and L'Anse students graduate from high school, on average.

College and Career Readiness



67%
of students at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (KBOCC) identify as Native American.

Family and Community Supports



50%
of families approve of and are engaged in their children's education in grades K-12.

Select Strategies

- A 1-week Kindergarten Bridge Program introduces caregivers and children to their future schools and conducts readiness assessments.
- Pre-primary school staff participate in professional development programs that focus on kindergarten preparation for children aged 0-5.

- Extended school bus hours and the addition of large passenger vans enable more K-12 students to attend in-school and afterschool activities.
- Tutoring occurs during and after school hours for students who are not yet testing at grade level in core subjects.

- Postsecondary specialists discuss educational opportunities and the enrollment process with families early in high school.
- A partnership with KBOCC expands career and technical education credentialing opportunities for youth, families, and community members.

- Home visitors teach healthy living practices, including the importance of exercise, nutrition, and emotional well-being.
- Community programming centered in the Niiwin Akeaa Community Center connects families to social services and provides peer networking opportunities to encourage educational engagement.



Innovative Strategy Spotlight

Cultural Advocates and KBIC Ojibwe language instructors in both school districts teach and explore Ojibwe culture in the classroom to create school environments that respect and honor Native American students. Through this program, advocates plan educational trips to neighboring Tribes, cultural events, and tribally owned institutions of higher education to encourage positive change and academic success for Native American students.