

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0047-21

**DATE:** March 12, 2021

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESCINDING CO-84-20, ENTITLED, "*AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION; OPPOSING ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT ALL SCHOOLS INTENDING TO REOPEN WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION AMIDST COVID-19; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION IN RECOMMENDING VIRTUAL LEARNING*"

**PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION:** This resolution, if approved, will rescind Navajo Nation Council resolution CO-84-20 which generally opposed *all in-person instruction at all schools intending to reopen within the Navajo Nation amidst COVID-19* and supported the Navajo Nation Board of Education in recommending virtual learning. The resolution introduced herein will rescind this action.

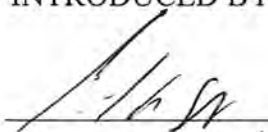
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 13 REAHUSE  
Website Posting Time/Date: 03-17-21 5:13 pm  
Posting End Date: 03-22-2021  
Eligible for Action: 03-23-2021

Health Education & Human Services Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyati' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

  
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. **0047-21**

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
RESCINDING CO-84-20, ENTITLED, "AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY  
FOR THE NAVAJO NATION; OPPOSING ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT ALL  
SCHOOLS INTENDING TO REOPEN WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION AMIDST COVID-  
19; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION IN  
RECOMMENDING VIRTUAL LEARNING"

WHEREAS:

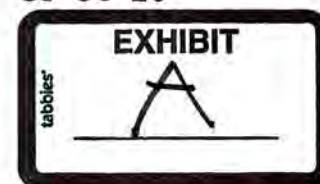
- A. The Health Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has oversight over the Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C) (1).
- B. The Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review all proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (9).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A). On October 22, 2020, the Council passed resolution entitled "An Action Relating To An Emergency For The Navajo Nation; Opposing All In-Person Instruction At All Schools Intending To Reopen Within The Navajo Nation Amidst

1           *COVID-19; Supporting The Navajo Nation Board Of Education In Recommending*  
2           *Virtual Learning.* " CO-84-20 is attached as Exhibit A.  
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4       NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

5           The Navajo Nation hereby rescinds CO-84-20.  
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RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020



AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION; OPPOSING ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT ALL SCHOOLS INTENDING TO REOPEN WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION AMIDST COVID-19; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION IN RECOMMENDING VIRTUAL LEARNING

WHEREAS:

- A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (16) "[m]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council."
- B. Schools reopening and decisions to resume in-class instruction directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation in protection its children.
- C. The Navajo Nation Board of Education on August 6, 2020 passed resolution "Approving and recommending that all Navajo Nation Schools Provide Virtual or Online Learning Options Only, With No Face-to-Face Instruction." Exhibit A, NNBEAU-658-2020. Again, on September 3, 2020, the Board of Education passed resolution "Opposing Plans by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to Reopen Schools on September 16, 2020 with Face-to-Face Instruction." Exhibit B, NNBESE-666-2020. The Board directed "that all BIE-Operated Schools on the Navajo Nation provide Virtual or Online Learning Options with No Face-to-Face Instruction." *Id.*
- D. Due to the continuing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Navajo Nation Council fully supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education's opposition to any in-class school instruction, and instead to allow children to learn safely from home through virtual learning with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities.
- E. Local Education Agencies are required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act to provide special education services according to students' Individualized Education Program (IEP); and there are certain types of instructional

needs and services for students with disabilities that may best be accomplished in person.

1. Schools that opt to provide in-person special education services must submit notification to the Department of Diné Education with a breakdown of student population (total student enrollment, special education enrollment, and percentage of special education students recommended for in-person IEP service(s)), acknowledgment of implementation of mitigation strategies for student and school safety including parent safety orientation, and verification of approval by the local school governing board.
  2. Parents must voluntarily elect participation in the in-person special education services and schools must work directly with parents to arrange for safe transportation necessary for students to access in-person IEP services.
- F. COVID-19 is a virus causing serious respiratory illness. Many cases involving death continue to be reported across the United States.
- G. In March 2020, the Navajo Nation began taking measures to protect its people, issuing emergency public health orders. See, *Emergency Management Commission resolution CEM 20-03-11; Executive Orders Nos. 001-20, 002-20, 003-20, 004-20; Public Health Emergency Orders 2020-001, 2020-002, 2020-003, 2020-004, 2020-005, 2020-006, 2020-007, 2020-008* (incorporated herein by this reference). In spite of these measures, the infection rate within the Navajo Nation increased tremendously. For a period of time, the Navajo Nation had the highest per capita rate for COVID-19 positive tests in the United States. Today, although the rates have come down, positive tests continue to be reported. The serious health concerns posed by COVID-19 has not changed. The virus remains extremely contagious, and presently there is no vaccine.
- H. The Navajo Nation is a sovereign Nation, governing all matters within its territorial jurisdiction. See, *Treaty of 1868*. This sovereign status, which is well-established, permits the Navajo Nation to exercise authority over schools located within its boundaries, including schools operated by or through the United States government. The Navajo Nation has an inherent right to determine all aspects of education within its jurisdiction, including decisions on the safety of Navajo school children. Parents of Navajo school children, as well, have the right to determine under what conditions their

children attend schools operated and funded by the federal government.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education opposing in-class instruction for all schools operating within the Navajo Nation, particularly schools operated through the U.S. Government including Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools and Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools. The Navajo Nation further supports the Board of Education's opposition to the Bureau of Indian Education's plan to reopen schools September 16, 2020 with in-class instruction.
- B. Until the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation supports virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities.
- C. For any school currently providing in-person instruction, the Navajo Nation strongly recommends that schools cease such operations immediately.
- D. The Navajo Nation expects the complete cooperation of all federal and state agencies to ensure that all schools located with the Navajo Nation provide virtual learning only, with no in-class instruction.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 23 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2020.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

10/26/2020  
DATE

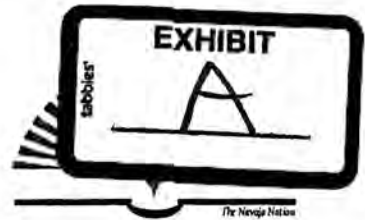
Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka  
Second: Honorable Pernell Halona  
Speaker Seth Damon not voting



Jonathan Nez  
President

## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 670 · Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
PHONE (928) 871 - 7475 · FAX (928) 871 - 7474



Myron Lizer  
Vice-President

NNBEAU-658-2020

### RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Relating to Education; Approving and Recommending that all Navajo Nation Schools Provide Virtual or Online Learning Options Only, with No Face-to-Face Instruction.

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purposes of overseeing the operation of all schools serving the Navajo Nation. 10 N.N.C. § 106 (A). The Board carries out its duties and responsibilities through the Department of Diné Education (hereinafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
2. The Department is the administrative agency within the Navajo Nation with responsibility and authority for implementing and enforcing the educational laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §1801(B); 10 N.N.C. §107(A). The Department is under the immediate direction of the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools, subject to the overall direction of the Board. 10 N.N.C. §107(B).
3. The Navajo Nation has substantial authority and broad jurisdiction to regulate all matters within its territorial boundaries pursuant to its inherent sovereignty and the Treaty of 1868. This authority and jurisdiction include the ability to oversee and regulate matters regarding state public schools, Public Law 100-297 grant, Public Law 93-638 contract, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, higher education institutions, and all FACE programs, early childhood education programs, and Navajo Head Start programs located on the Navajo Nation.
4. The Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global pandemic infecting substantial numbers of people, which ~~and~~ has spread exponentially and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") ~~and~~ the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations located within the United States and regionally.
5. The Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic ~~has-highlighted~~ the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, charter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resourced plan to support every school and school district reopening during the 2020-21 academic year.

#### NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

Priscilla B. Manuelito, **President** · Spencer W. Willie, **Vice President** · Dr. Victoria Yazzie, **Secretary**  
**Member:** Sharon A. Toadecheenie · Marlene Burbank · Dr. Henry Fowler · Andrea K. Thomas  
 Freda Nells · Joan A. Gray · Emerson John · Dr. Pauletta White  
 Patricia Gonnies, *Acting Superintendent of Schools*

6. The Board contends that the reopening of schools should be a local or regional decision informed by applicable health, safety and disinfecting recommendations articulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as Navajo Nation, state and local health agencies. The COVID-19 crisis has revealed the urgency of integrating strategies and processes to promote students' health, social and emotional learning, and well-being as essential components of their academic growth, development, and achievement.
7. The Navajo Nation's school reopening guidelines were developed in consultation with stakeholders from BIE-funded schools, school leaders, BIE officials, parents, and other stakeholders. The guidelines affirm the work and efforts to support local school superintendents, school leaders and administrators, parents, students, ~~etc and other stakeholders~~, to ensure a smooth transition to reopen schools for the 2020-21 school year in a manner informed by health data, applicable and actionable CDC, Navajo Nation, state and local health agency guidance, while ~~and~~ prioritizing the health and safety of students and staff.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby approves and recommends that all schools located on the Navajo Nation, including Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, public schools (including charter schools) located on the Navajo Nation, private schools, higher education institutions operating on the Navajo Nation, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all after-school programs provide virtual or online learning options only, without face-to-face instruction, until the Navajo Nation deems it safe to return to face-to-face instruction.
2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby directs and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any actions deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Board of Education of the Navajo Nation at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, AZ (Navajo Nation) at which a quorum was present, motion by Andrea K. Thomas and seconded by Spencer W. Willie and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained, this 6th day of August 2020.



Priscilla B. Manuelito, President  
Navajo Nation Board of Education



Jonathan Nez  
President

## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 670 · Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
PHONE (928) 871 - 7475 · FAX (928) 871 - 7474



Myron Lizer  
Vice-President

NNBESE-666-2020

### RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Relating to Education; Opposing Plans by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to Reopen Schools on September 16, 2020 with Face-to-Face Instruction; Directing that all BIE-Operated Schools on the Navajo Nation Provide Virtual or Online Learning Options with No Face-to-Face Instruction.**

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purposes of overseeing the operation of all schools serving the Navajo Nation. 10 N.N.C. § 106 (A). The Board carries out its duties and responsibilities through the Department of Diné Education (hereinafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
2. The Department is the administrative agency within the Navajo Nation with responsibility and authority for implementing and enforcing the educational laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §1801(B); 10 N.N.C. §107(A). The Department is under the immediate direction of the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools, subject to the overall direction of the Board. 10 N.N.C. §107(B).
3. The Navajo Nation has substantial authority and broad jurisdiction to regulate all matters within its territorial boundaries pursuant to its inherent sovereignty and the Treaty of 1868. This authority and jurisdiction include the ability to oversee and regulate matters regarding state public schools, Public Law 100-297 grant, Public Law 93-638 contract, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, higher education institutions, and all FACE programs, early childhood education programs, and Navajo Head Start programs located on the Navajo Nation.
4. The Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global pandemic infecting substantial numbers of people, which has spread exponentially and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations located within the United States and regionally.
5. The Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, charter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resourced plan to support every school and school district reopening during the 2020-21 academic year.

#### NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Priscilla B. Manuelito, President · Spencer W. Willie, Vice President · Dr. Victoria Yazzie, Secretary*  
**Member:** *Sharon A. Toadecheenie · Marlene Burbank · Dr. Henry Fowler · Andrea K. Thomas*  
*Freda Nells · Joan A. Gray · Emerson John · Dr. Pauletta White*  
*Patricia Gonnig, Acting Superintendent of Schools*

6. During a telephone conference on August 13, 2020, the BIE Acting Associate Director Charles Sherman assured the Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and the Department that BIE schools operating schools on the Navajo Nation would begin online learning with no in-person instruction. He has since changed his position.
7. The Navajo Nation's school reopening guidelines were developed in consultation with stakeholders from BIE-funded schools, school leaders, BIE officials, parents, and other stakeholders. The guidelines affirm the work and efforts to support local school superintendents, school leaders and administrators, parents, students, and other stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition to reopen schools for the 2020-21 school year in a manner informed by health data, applicable and actionable CDC, Navajo Nation, state and local health agency guidance, while prioritizing the health and safety of students and staff.
8. The Board and the Navajo Nation strongly request the BIE to honor the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, the standing Navajo Nation health orders, and the Board's support for online learning only for the duration of first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby opposes plans by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to reopen schools on the Navajo Nation on September 16, 2020 with face-to-face and in-person instruction and directs all BIE-operated schools to provide virtual or online learning options only, with no face-to-face instruction, for the duration of first semester of the 2020-2021 school year or until the Navajo Nation deems it safe to return to face-to-face instruction.
2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby directs and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any actions deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Board of Education of the Navajo Nation at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Arizona (Navajo Nation) at which a quorum was present, motion by Dr. Henry Fowler and seconded by Joan A. Gray and that the same was passed by a vote of 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained, this 3rd day of September 2020.



Priscilla B. Manuelito, President  
Navajo Nation Board of Education

# NAVAJO NATION

546

Navajo Nation Council 2020 Fall Session

10/22/2020

02:52:50 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0219-20: Opposing	PASSED
MOT Wauneka, E	All In-Person Instruction at all	
SEC Halona, P	Schools Intending to Reason	
	Within the Navajo Nation...	

Yeas : 23

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

## Yea : 23

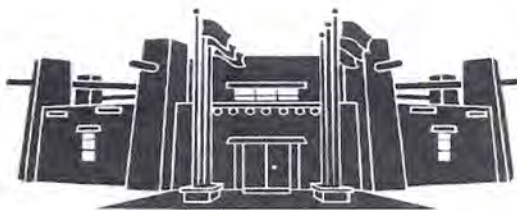
Begay, E	Daniels	Slater, C	Tso, E
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Smith	Walker, T
Begay, P	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Wauneka, E
Brown	Henio, J	Tso	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, C	Yellowhair
Crotty	Nez, R	Tso, D	

## Nay : 0

## Excused : 0


## Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker: Damon



## MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Carl Slater, Delegate  
Navajo Nation Council

From :   
Ron Haven, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : March 12, 2021

Re : AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESCINDING CO-84-20, ENTITLED, "AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION; OPPOSING ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT ALL SCHOOLS INTENDING TO REOPEN WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION AMIDST COVID-19; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION IN RECOMMENDING VIRTUAL LEARNING"

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. As to format, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

OLC # 21-101-1

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0047-21\_\_

SPONSOR: Carl Slater

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CO-84-20, Entitled, "An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation; Opposing All In-Person Instruction at all Schools Intending to Reopen within the Navajo Nation Amidst COVID-19; Supporting the Navajo Nation Board of Education in Recommending Virtual Learning"**

**Date posted: March 17, 2021 at 5:13PM**

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0047-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Carl R. Slater**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CO-84-20, Entitled, "An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation; Opposing All In-Person Instruction at all Schools Intending to Reopen within the Navajo Nation Amidst COVID-19; Supporting the Navajo Nation Board of Education in Recommending Virtual Learning"**

**Posted: March 17, 2021 at 5:13 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: March 22, 2021**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	<b>1) Arronda White</b> <b>2) Javy Atcitty</b>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<b>1) Regina Akee</b> <b>2) Savannah Begay</b> <b>3) Martha Saggbay</b> <b>4) DonnaLeigh Dedman</b> <b>5) Jenny Varkatzas</b> <b>6) Terra Begay</b> <b>7) Nicole Notah</b> <b>8) Christine Benally</b> <b>9) Berlynica A. Peaches</b> <b>10) Delila Begay</b> <b>11) Nicoby Clark</b> <b>12) Roxanne and Melvin Thompson</b> <b>13) Amber Harvey</b> <b>14) Andraya Yazzie</b> <b>15) Loretta Goldtooth</b> <b>16) Natasha Yazzie</b> <b>17) Charlene Gonnies</b> <b>18) Autumn Cayaditto</b> <b>19) Deborahe Lister</b>

Comments/Recommendations	1) Savannah Six 2) Trudy Tso 3) Mary Begay
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Legislative Tracking Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services

03/23/21 10:26 AM

Date/Time

# Arronda White: Legislation No.0047-21

Arronda White <arrwhite\_8@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

I give my full support of the resolution to allow our children to return to school in person. Believing that all schools are competent enough to practice safe measurements. There are many proper ways to stay safe in school. I am sure that staff and student have a good knowledge of disinfecting, hand sanitizing and social distancing. I am also confident in knowing that the students are able to practice all COVID 19 safety guidelines. I know this virus has caused the Navajo nation to take extreme measures to keep everyone safe; We have come this far in educating our people. I say it's time to work together to start healing and move forward to become stronger for the future. In doing so our students need to return to the class rooms, they are getting behind. Some are even failing, not willing do the work. There are a lot students who are not even turning in school work. My child is having a hard time learning outside the classroom. Some students learn better at school with the teachers present. Our children need their education to strive for them self to be better in the future. New Mexico and the Navajo Nation are already at the lower percentage of education in the United states. We are depriving them of their learning and abilities to strive even higher. Especially for the High school seniors who are losing their chance to excel in academics. They should be allowed to participate in sports, which for some are a good source of motivation. After all we have always influence our native children to do better for them selves through education.

Thank You,

sincerely

Arronda White

Ft Wingate Elementary parent

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# Javy Atcitty (Navajo Prep student)- Legislation No. 0047-21

Javy Atcitty <jatcitty@navajoprep.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:32 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

I am a senior IB Diploma Candidate at Navajo Preparatory School. I am writing to offer my support for reopening schools on the Navajo Nation.

Going to school virtually is a challenge, but the biggest hurdle is that I do not have good internet access at my house. I often lag out of my classes in the middle of my teachers teaching me and this causes me to fall behind. I am asking you to please allow schools to reopen so that I can have access to my teachers and learn in person. I am going to college in a few months and I really need to return to school to finish up and make sure I am fully prepared for college. Furthermore, most of my classmates as well as myself are fully vaccinated at this point.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment in support of reopening schools.

Sincerely,

Javy Atcitty

Class of 2021

Navajo Preparatory School

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# Fw: Legislation No. 0046-21 and Legislation No. 0047-21

comments

Tue 3/23/2021 9:21 AM

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**From:** GINA AKEE <gina\_akee\_99@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 3:06:16 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** Legislation No. 0046-21 and Legislation No. 0047-21

Tuba City Elementary School Kindergarten Teachers  
Western Navajo Agency  
P. O. Box 2589  
Tuba City, AZ 86045

March 12, 2021  
To Whom It May Concern;

We oppose in-person learning. We support continuing Virtual Learning for the remainder of School Year 2020-2021, May 2021.

Recently, our Governor Ducey articulated that any State of Arizona Public School that does not return to "in person" teaching will not receive money from the State of Arizona. We as a Tribal Sovereign Nation can be exempt from this. We are Public School Educators for the Tuba City School District on the Navajo Reservation. We on the Navajo Reservation have been hit extremely hard by COVID. We are lacking in resources and constitute a high-risk population.

Our concerns are as follows. We recently have had a new, stronger strain of COVID on the Reservation. Our lack of sufficient health care has given us many problems, obstacles and barriers while dealing with the Virus. Many tribal members also lack everyday resources such as water, power and wood for heat. So far, simple things like social distancing and online learning have worked fairly well, to bring down the severity of outbreaks. For example, when Maricopa County opened up during the late Summer/early Fall it was disastrous. As a result, Phoenix became the worldwide hot spot.

Second, we feel our most important concern are for the elderly and family members with pre-existing health issues. A very large percentage of Navajo families reside with extended families, which include grandparents. Often, grandparents assist school age children while parents are working; many on the Reservation must travel long distances to work and can be away from home for weeks, due to the lack of employment opportunity locally. Hence, the elderly become caregivers for their grandchildren, which in turn leaves them vulnerable to COVID exposure. This is also a fear for Educators, Administrators and other school employees, since all have not yet been vaccinated. Dreadfully and unfortunately, we have suffered much heartache due to the loss of our own elderly relatives.

Third concern is the social behavior of kindergarten age students. At this young age, repercussions and consequences are not fully developed. They live in the moment. They can be impulsive, acting out before thinking logically. Can they comprehend the idea of 6 foot social distancing, and being required to wear a mask which can be removed easily? No. They will be required to wear a mask the entire school day, except during lunch time. Disposable masks may not fit well and ear loops can break easily. We are not prepared to provide numerous extra masks per day.

We believe it would be logical and even prudent to continue Distance Learning, at least for the remainder of SY 2020-2021. The idea of in-person learning can be revisited in the Fall. Johnathan Nez, Navajo Nation Tribal President, has been an advocate for continuing distance learning. So far, it has been as successful as possible, given the circumstances. In closing, we would like you to weigh the benefits vs. negatives. Nine more weeks of continuing a program that is working, both educationally, and health-wise, seems better than return to normal too soon. This could possibly set the health care system and our personal health back even further.

Thank you,  
Tuba City Elementary School Kindergarten Teachers  
Regina Akee, Kindergarten Teacher  
Corileen Phillips, Kindergarten Teacher  
Della Austin, Kindergarten Teacher  
Bernise Holliday, Kindergarten Teacher  
Diana Saganey, Kindergarten Teacher

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# Savannah Begay-Legislation #0047-21

Savannah Begay <sbegay\_86@hotmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:57 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon,

I oppose the legislation and encourage online learning. It is still unsafe for kids to return as they are not protected with a vaccine yet. They would be transmitters or even worse be affected by the virus. Please do not allow the legislation to take place.

From the experience this year my daughter is learning a lot more at home. She has the support of her family at home to learn. I know it is not like this for all families but for families and the children to be safe I believe it would be best for the kids to continue to stay home.

Thank you,

Savannah Begay

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# Fw: Legislation 0046-21 & 0047-21

comments

Tue 3/23/2021 9:24 AM

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**From:** Mexican Water Chapter <mexicanwater@navajochapters.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 5:46 PM

**To:** comments

**Cc:** Amber K. Crotty; Charlaine Tso; Herman Daniels, Jr.; Mark Freeland; Nathaniel Brown; Rickie Nez; Seth Damon

**Subject:** Legislation 0046-21 & 0047-21

My name is Martha Saggboy, I am a parent & serve on the Red Mesa Unified School District Governing Board as a member. I strongly oppose re-opening of the state operated school districts and all schools on Navajo Reservation because a lot of our Navajo people have not been vaccinated and it's too risky at this point to send our innocent children into a setting of the unknown, we have lost too many love ones and we can not risk our own children putting them in danger. I plea with you our leaders 24th Navajo Nation Council to make the best decision for your people who elected you into those positions. I would recommend continuing virtual learning, to continue to enhance the technology capabilities because we will still need that in the future.

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opposing 0047-21

DonnaLeigh Dedman <donali\_arviso@hotmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 6:57 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: leola.thompson@ganado.k12.az.us <leola.thompson@ganado.k12.az.us>; Anamaneula.rico@ganado.k12.az.us <Anamaneula.rico@ganado.k12.az.us>; victoria.lafrance@ganado.k12.az.us <victoria.lafrance@ganado.k12.az.us>;

Thank you for allowing parents and educators to voice their concerns. This is the first time, I am aware and allowed the opportunity give inputs and comments on our children's safety.

I oppose 0047-21, please do not Rescind CO-84-20.

CO-84-20 protects our children from the dangerous monster COVID 19. Once again, outsiders (non Navajos) brought disease to harm and kill our people.

Please think of our children's safety. It is in your hands to ensure our future. Long ago before education was forced on our children, the Navajo people protected their children at home. They kept them safe at home, away from danger, away from ceremonies that may bring illness upon them, and out of harm's way. A child was seen as being holy and pure. Protection was offered in the safety and beauty of the home. This is where our children need to be until a vaccination is provided.

Currently, the Ganado Intermediate School and Ganado Unified School District are not ready to support the students' safety following the CDC guidelines. We still have large tables that accommodate 4 students. We do not have plexiglass for student desks. We do not have a reopening plan to accommodate students in phases. The Ganado Intermediate does not have a plan currently in place. We are scrambling to try and develop one and the district is not ready to accommodate this. There needs to be time to properly implement a solid and safe plan.

I have heard parents state they will not send their child or children to school until there is a vaccine available to protect children. We need to put health before education. We need to uphold the US government and health agencies to provide a vaccine for our children.

Currently, children, toddlers and infants are vulnerable. Let's put public health on the forefront and ensure our children's safety until one or both of the following happen(s):

1. Children receive vaccination for COVID 19
2. Time allowed for school districts (mandated) to submit their reopening plans to DODE by the end of June with the goal to open in the fall. There needs to be an approval by an agency like DODE. (Similar to the mandate business owners need for reopening).
  - a. hybrid learning
  - b. opening in phases

Another suggestion is for in person learning or school to be available to students who are vaccinated. This would be 16 year old though 18 years of age.

Survival of the fitness is not a model the Navajo people embrace. We need to protect our children. They all deserve a chance at a prosperous and healthy life 10, 15, 20, 50, 100 years into the future. Please consider the Navajo Warriors who went off to fight for their families and people. They never sent a child out to be warriors. They sent the men and later women. As our council men/women and chapter leaders who are our modern day heroes, please hear our pleas to keep CO-84-20. Do not rescind CO-84-20. Do not support 0047-21

We have the opportunity and the sovereignty to protect all our Navajo people especially the most vulnerable (children and elders). Our goal is to help them to walk in beauty for many more years to come.

Thank you, Donnaleigh Dedman (Parent and Public School Employee)

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DonnaLeigh??Dedman??

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*" Sometimes our light goes out but is nurtured into flame by another human s being.?? Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light." ??*

?? --Albert Schweitzer

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# Reopening schools

Jenny Varkatzas <[varkatzas92@gmail.com](mailto:varkatzas92@gmail.com)>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:29 AM

To: comments <[comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)>;

I'm a parent. My oldest is in 5th grade. I would not recommend students going back to school in person. I feel safer if my child stays home and do school from home until COVID goes away. Kids don't wash their hands, they don't wear their mask. Plus they might be asymptotic I'm not chancing my child going back to school. DONT MATTER IF THEY CASES GO DOWN, my child can still get sick. I protected him this long, don't make him go back school with COVID still around.

My name is Jennifer Begay

Email: [Varkatzas92@gmail.com](mailto:Varkatzas92@gmail.com)

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# school reopening plan

Terra Begay <terracc26@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good evening,

I am a mother of three, my kids have been doing virtual learning for the past year and we are not ready for them to return back to the classroom. I say this because of their safety, I don't know where people have been and who they are exposed to. I work with the school district and we sure aren't ready for them to return back to the classroom. My kids have been doing very well with online classes making Superintendent's Honor Roll. With that being said, please don't send them back; it's too soon for them, I would like for them to continue to do virtual learning. My kids safety is my number one priority and as well as all the kids on the reservation. They are our futures and leaders, so let's think about them. Let's continue to get through this pandemic and make sure that we are ready to open one day not now. Thank you for reading my message and hopefully you'll reconsider.

Thank you

Terra

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# DO NOT Reopening

Nicole Notah <nicci\_notah2004@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Our babies are precious to us! Keep them home, online learning. Some of our children are doing a lot better learning online. It's too soon to open back up our schools. Some of us parents don't feel comfortable having our kids out and about. We don't know what is coming for us. There's the news that we watch with our children and they hear that most of the high doctors are saying it's too soon to reopen. Have patience!! We have new variants that are coming to us. Our people are still traveling and who knows what they will bring back to us. Give us parents an option to do online learning as well. If some parents want their kids at school let them but if we want them home SAFE we can have that option to keep them home and learn. My boys have been doing a lot better online, we received Principle Honor Rolls and proud that we are there for them all year long. PLEASE WAIT until we have no cases for at least over a month. Give it time! Don't rush them.

Nicole N

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re Legislation No. 0047-21

cl benally <clbenally@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Greetings!

I'm writing in regards to the above name legislation on behalf of my family. I fully OPPOSE this legislation. This pandemic is still among our people and there are many that have not been vaccinated. Therefore, I will not let my children back to in-person classroom. I will continue to have my children do virtual on-line learning and will later transition my children to home-school as time permits.

Christine Benally, parent

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Kat <berlynciapeaches@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My family & I oppose the decision to reopen schools to in-person teaching. My father was a school bus driver here on the Navajo Nation with Shonto Preparatory School and we lost him to Covid-19 during the first wave in April 2020. In honor of every Navajo Nation member we lost due to Covid 19 I believe we should stay with virtual learning online.

Thank you from my family,

Berlynica A. Peaches\_Doctor

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# Legislation No. 0047-21, Delila Begay

delila begay <dfayeb@hotmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this email as my support to not have the schools provide in-person teaching for our children. This past year, having to deal with the changes that we had to make and continue to, to keep our children and families safe has been devastating and even very much trying. I do not support the schools to teach my children in person because this would mean my children are going to be around other students from a vast background with no control of knowing what precautions the students take at home to keep safe from the Covid-19 virus.

As we know there is a number of people who are not willing to get the Covid-19 vaccine only to continue to give them the possibility of acquiring the virus at a higher rate and could pass to their children who will attend the schools and the trend will only continue to other children. Knowing that there is a possibility of my children acquiring this virus is plan out scary and knowing that since this virus presented itself in our communities I as a concerned parent had to make changes in our lifestyle and continue to do so to protect them from this virus. I have to say if we re-open the schools to provide in person teaching all the hard work, worries, precautions and life changes we made to keep our family safe was simply a waste. I do not support the schools to provide in person teaching until at least the new school year.

We also have to think about our children who are scared of this virus because of the loss of family members or negative effects caused by Covid, this transition would be overwhelming for them and more than likely cause them to struggle even yet more with their school work. Families like mine barely adjusted to home school and this is what our children have become accustomed to and to put them in an environment that was taken from them will be just another adjustment that could take even more time again. Once a child is traumatized by some sort of life event, it takes time for them to be able to get back to what we say normal, please think about how this will affect our kids.

A slow transition and knowing a new school year, 2021-2022, is coming up will give them time to accept, comprehend, and get support needed to be okay when they go back into the school with others around them. As adults we understand the Covid guidelines however, some children are not going be worried but yet think that everything is back to normal and not be respectful for other children who will be overwhelmed of being present with others. Please wait until at least the new school year 2021-2022 to transition into in person teaching at the schools, this will also allow schools to prepare proper guidelines that will be taken to keep everyone safe in this setting and when more vaccines have been given throughout communities.

Thank you for your understanding.

Delila Begay-parent of 4 school aged children

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

NiCoby Clark <navajoninja79@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Navajo Nation Leaders,

I am writing this email as a formal response to a consideration of Legislation No. 0047-21 which has been proposed to end the previous legislation supporting virtual learning in all schools located within the Navajo Nation. As a parent of a current 3rd Grade student at Tuba City Boarding School, I do **NOT** support this new proposal which allows students to return to in-person instruction in the classroom.

Although Health Services have been distributing vaccines throughout the Navajo Nation, I believe it is way too early yet to begin our transition back to a new sense of normalcy. Re-infection is still happening regardless of the presence of a vaccine or not. This presents obvious risks to our younger un-vaccinated population, who were not eligible for any vaccines. I've seen in news media and online medical articles that children can suffer dangerous symptoms or side effects during and after infection. This is a major concern for my child as he can be sensitive when he gets sick.

Additionally, dissemination of information is extremely lacking from my child's school. Direct communication from school leadership in regards to school policies and governance are not shared frequently or not readily available. As of this writing, the school's website is not upkept and present's outdated information. As a community stakeholder, this is unacceptable. School representatives may argue that they keep their information current via social media, learning platforms, email, etc., but not everyone follows social media.

Lastly, if we were in a pre-pandemic time, we would be entering the last quarter of a school year. This is a time when instruction begins its final transition to concluding the school year. My question, (and I am sure others will), is **WHY** attempt to bring students back into the classroom? What is the logic behind this idea? We are so far upstream (figuratively speaking) that it makes no sense to rush back to the classroom. Daily routines and expectations for online etiquette have been established for teachers and their students and all of that progress could be lost if this new resolution were to be approved and passed.

In conclusion, please consider our thoughts and concerns when making decisions that will affect our children and our students. We are not completely out of the woods yet as there is still progress yet to be made in ensuring public health and safety.

Thank you for you time,

Best,

Nicoby Clark

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# Schools

limitedarcher <limitedarcher@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:32 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am a parent and schools need to stay virtual. No need to put our children at risk. There was no priority for teacher vaccinations and some are still waiting. I know all adult meetings, school boards, some colleges are staying virtual to the of Summer.

Private businesses are all still virtual. Doodah.

Thank you,

Roxanne and Melvin Thompson, Sr.

Sent from my Galaxy

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# Schools Reopening

amber harvey <amberharvey2022@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:32 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Amber Harvey and I am a student at Chinle High School. As a student I have many issues about the school(s) reopening. It may seem like a great idea to a few people but I disagree with this. Many of the parents do not know what goes on in their child's school life.

At Chinle High School there are many concerns that I have. One thing is that most students will not follow the rules given even before covid had happened, students wouldn't follow the rules. There are several hallways open, most of the staff close all the hallways, I would say that there are only three hallways open, so where would all students go with only limited space, There are so many groups that go on, like the couples, the kids that smoke, athletes that play, and so many other groups. These students will not follow the 6 feet apart. Another thing is, who will always clean the tables that students sit at, I know the teachers won't be able to do that because they will complain saying that they have to get lessons ready for the day and say that they have no time to clean the areas. Where will the 6 feet apart apply when there are about 30 students in each class room. Students will get the best of the staff members and then the staff members will then turn around and say "there's nothing they can do, if something happens, something happens."

Are you guys going to be the ones to be there at the school, telling the kids to stay 6 feet apart, or telling the staff to clean the tables. Where would the 6 feet apart apply to when students have to get on the bus. There are not many buses to go around to have the 6 feet apart, many times the bus would be overfilled to where some stand in the alley. Especially when the bus breaks down, students will have to get on another bus just to get the school. Parents do not have time to drop off and pick up their child at school everyday. There are so many issues that I have as a student at Chinle High School, like I said not everyone sees what goes on from 8 am - 4pm at school. Is this what the Navajo Nation wants for kids to go back to school when in reality you don't know what happens during school hours.

I strongly disagree with the thought of physically going back to school especially because Chinle has the most highest cases on the reservation. Not all students have got vaccinated, or have both shots due to the shortage the hospitals/clinics have. I would strongly suggest that you think twice about reopening schools on the reservation and think about your kids and how many of my concerns may relate to most schools on the reservation.

The only reason why I would think twice about reopening schools is because of the newsletter below coming from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President.

## The Navajo Nation

### Office of the President and Vice President

#### CONTACTS

Jared Touchin, Communications Director (928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer (928) 274-2758

[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 19, 2021

**5 new cases, 16,290 recoveries, and one more death related to COVID-19**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Friday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported five new COVID-19 positive cases for the Navajo Nation and one more death. The total number of deaths is now 1,229 as of Friday. Reports indicate that 16,290 individuals have recovered from COVID-19, and 250,676 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 29,992.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- **Chinle Service Unit: 5,514**
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 2,869
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 3,574
- Gallup Service Unit: 4,741
- Kayenta Service Unit: 2,648
- Shiprock Service Unit: 5,026
- Tuba City Service Unit: 3,639
- Winslow Service Unit: 1,963

\* 18 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Friday, the state of Arizona reported 423 new cases, Utah reported 447, and New Mexico reported 226 new cases.

“We had several new cases of COVID-19 reported due to an in-person birthday party that was held recently. Now is not the time to hold large in-person gatherings among multiple households due to the ongoing risks of COVID-19 and the variants. It’s these types of actions that lead to surges in new infections and more hospitalizations. We have to keep fighting and keep taking all precautions recommended by the public health experts. Personal responsibility is key to reducing the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to stay home as much as possible, wear one or two masks in public and near others who do not reside under the same household as you, avoid large crowds and gatherings, practice social distancing, and wash your hands often,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

On Friday, the Navajo Nation held a “Navajo Nation Day of Prayer” virtual event that included remarks from Navajo Nation leaders, a written statement from U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, newly-confirmed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, faith-based leaders, Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish, and Navajo Area Indian Health Service Director Roselyn Tso to honor and remember all of the lives lost to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic approximately one year ago.

“We thank everyone who was a part of today’s Day of Prayer event. As we move forward in this pandemic, we have to keep supporting one another by keeping each other safe and praying together. We hope that today’s event moves us another step forward in the process of healing from the losses caused by this COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to pray and don’t let up your guard,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

For more information, including helpful prevention tips, and resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19, visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>. For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

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# Reopening School

Andraya Yazzie <andrayayazzie26@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:36 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Please don't reopen schools,just til there is no more covid-19 anymore. People are careless traveling exposing people.Sick people go work,go school,go grocery shopping they don't care who they effect with the virus. There's alot of us who haven't catch it, because we are scared to step outside. Don't put our kids at risk Please I beg don't open the schools.

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Loretta A. Goldtooth <lgoldtooth@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:36 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

I oppose Legislation No. 0047-21. As a parent to 2 children who attend Tuba City Boarding School I do not feel it is safe to allow our children to return to an in person environment. Currently, there is no vaccine for children 16 and under. As a parent I feel we can be patient and wait for a vaccine for children to become available. The online instruction that is being provided by Tuba City Boarding School is excellent and provides my children with an adequate education. It is also up to us parents to ensure that our children are receiving an adequate education. There are multiple resources out there on line that offer free educational classes and extra curriculum. My children have participated in art classes, leadership courses, physical education classes, physical education challenges, math and science courses, creative writing, journaling classes, and native language classes that were offered free and/or at a minimal expense. These courses were in addition to their regular classes offered by Tuba City Boarding School. We as parents must take accountability for our children's education, physical safety and health.

During this pandemic, I worked hard to keep my children safe, they did not leave our home, nor did they visit with anyone outside of our immediate family who lived in the home. Our extended family did not visit our home. I was the only one to go out and work. I practiced all safety precautions and followed CDC guidelines. I read up on COVID-19 and followed the CDC closely, to ensure that my family had the most current and up to date information. As a single mother, the safety of my children rested solely on my shoulders.

My youngest son has an autoimmune disease that puts him in extreme danger of catching COVID-19. He takes immuno-suppressant medication every 2 weeks, which helps his body from attacking itself. Because of this his immune system can not fight COVID-19. He is in 1st grade and his brother is in 5th grade. I can NOT allow either of them to return to in person instruction at the risk of contracting COVID-19, which is life threatening to my 1st grader. IF students are told to return to school, I will withdraw my students and look into home schooling. It is just too dangerous and i will NOT gamble with my children's lives. This is a sentiment that a majority of my extended family also believe, and the course of action we will take, if schools do NOT support continued on line learning.

I thank you for allowing me to voice my OPPOSITION to Legislation No. 0047-21.

Loretta Goldtooth

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# Legislation 0047-21

Tash <tashyaz@yahoo.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:52 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc:24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello my name is Natasha Yazzie

I am in opposition to the proposed legislation 0047-21. I feel that with only the last quarter of school left, we should not rush to have the kids re-attend school and risk the chances of contracting the virus. Although the number of cases are declining, the variant strains of the virus is circulating around us and this is what we do not have a vaccine available for. The chances that the kids could come to school with the virus is highly probable, as even when the virus wasn't around parent's still sent there kids to school when they were sick exposing other children to their illness. The school is a breeding ground for germs, bacteria, and viruses, I know this for a fact, since school has been online due to this pandemic my daughter has not gotten sick, not even with a cold or a flu, as oppose to when school was in session, my daughter would get a cold or flu rough 8-10 times during the school year. I would say with great confidence that keeping the children online for the rest of the school is necessary to avoid a breakout in COVID cases in kids. Remember that there is no vaccine currently available for children and we still do not know the severity of the symptoms in kids. Again I strongly oppose the legislation 0047-21.

Thank you

Natasha Yazzie

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

charlene gonnie <dahitiili@yahoo.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:52 PM

To:navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com <navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>; comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;  
24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose the reopening of schools on the Navajo Nation. It would be wise to continue with the virtual learning we are currently providing.

As a Native Teacher, we must protect our Children and Elders. Many of our Youths live in a Multi-generational home. We will be endangering the lives of our Elders, Children, and Native Professionals.

**Please, Let's continue with Virtual Learning on the Navajo Nation.**

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# Cayaditto, Autumn Legislation No. 0047-21

Autumn Cayaditto <akcayadi@asu.edu>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:52 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Schools on the Navajo Nation are in no place to be considered to re-open at this time and we are not equipped to ensure the safety of our kids will be at the highest level. As a worker for a public school, most of us have been vaccinated. However, this does not go for our students under the age of 16 and it seems like this consideration is being thrown out of cautionary.

Although, I am vaccinated from COVID-19, this does not mean if a student with the virus comes into the school near me, I can carry the virus home with me to my young children.

High schools with the grade level students who are above the age of 16yrs old and who have received their vaccine, could be considered for returning to in-person learning but this should not go for anyone under the age of 16. Those under the age of 16 should remain at a distance learning until a vaccine for this age group is developed and safe for our children. Our children are the future generations and leaders of the Navajo Nation, thus their safety is a priority. Since we are already nearing the end of the school year, students should remain at the distanced learning and considerations for hybrid learning should be thought of for next school year. I do not agree with re-opening schools for in-person learning anytime soon.

--

Thank you,

**Autumn Cayaditto**  
**Arizona State University**  
**BA Psychology, MS Psychology**

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# Deborahe Lister Legislation No. 0047-21

Deborahe Lister <deborahe.lister@gmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:53 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Opposed to reopening schools for school year 20-21.

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# Savanah Six Legislation No. 0047-21

Savanah Comb <savanahcomb@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:32 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern:

I am a parent of an elementary age child. I am recommending that school aged children return to school in-person until there is a vaccine for them.

My child has asthma and the severity of her getting sick from COVID-19 and the new variants are a potential threat to her health. The scarring of her lungs may affect her for the rest of her life and cause damages to her respiratory system. This damage can result in an economic loss in paying for a specialist out of pocket that our health insurance coverage can not cover such as hotel stays, food, gas, and wear and tear on a vehicle to travel to our boarder towns such as Phoenix or Albuquerque.

Please advocate for us to continue virtual learning for youths that have a pre-existing health condition.

Thank you.

Savanah Six

Houck AZ 86512

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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# Concerned Parent

Trudy Tso <tetso2011@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:33 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am emailing today to give my comment of concern for my Central Consolidated School District in Shiprock, NM. Since the beginning of the pandemic the Superintendent and School board have been pushing reopening our schools in the middle of a pandemic. Also why was the Superintendent pushing the schools to be open BEFORE his staff was fully vaccinated. I feel this school district offices, Superintendent, and school board not only has no concern for our Navajo Nation communities and staff but also only take advise and commands from Kirtland Towns People who do not reside on the Navajo Nation. The school district is good at looking good on paper and sending out surveys we never see results but you talk to the community members it's different stories of frustration and teachers leaving our community constantly.

Thank you for your time.

Trudy Tso  
Community Volunteer and Parent

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# Legislation No: 0047-21

Mary Begay <[mbegay80@gmail.com](mailto:mbegay80@gmail.com)>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:33 AM

To:comments <[comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)>;

I am a grandparent of 4 granddaughters who attend school on the Navajo Reservation. Why do we reopen school now? Our children got used to staying at home to attend virtual learning and the school year is almost over. Please continue to have virtual learning to the end of the school year. Covid-19 is still about on our reservation. I see family continue to go out into the border town or Phoenix for shopping or do a get-away with family.

Please reconsider the school reentry. The numbers of Covid-19 continue to fluctuate, certainly no reentry.

Thank you for your time to listen to our concern.

Mary Begay

--

Mary M. Begay

[mbegay80@gmail.com](mailto:mbegay80@gmail.com)

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**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0047-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Carl R. Slater**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CO-84-20, Entitled, "An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation; Opposing All In-Person Instruction at all Schools Intending to Reopen within the Navajo Nation Amidst COVID-19; Supporting the Navajo Nation Board of Education in Recommending Virtual Learning"**

**Posted: March 17, 2021 at 5:13 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: March 22, 2021**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	1) Daniel Smith 2) Dr. Robbie Koerperich 3) Vinton M. Werito
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	1) Katarina Nelson 2) Renelda King-Sloan 3) Veloria L. Jackson 4) Violet Harvey 5) Kristen Maloney and Murphy Bedonie 6) Charlissa Bilagody 7) Brenda Adekai 8) Alvina Tsosie 9) Tanya Harry 10) Marisa Greeson 11) Yovonne Honanie 12) Cornelia Kedelty 13) Joey Begay 14) Rose Nelson 15) Cherilyn Sheppard 16) Thomasita A. Begay 17) Nicolette Begay 18) Elouise Dugi 19) Amy Kensley

Comments/Recommendations	1) Roland Smallcanyon 2) Kevin Johnson 3) Samantha Ulibarri 4) Cindra Sam 5) Wanda Begody 6) Tyrone J. Begay 7) Akira Tsosie 8) Antoinette P. Cornfield 9) Shane Nez 10) Elaine Toledo 11) JoAnne Pete-Deschenie 12) Kristen Hosteen 13) Leberta Henderson 14) Shea J. Slim 15) Terri James 16) Colleen Bigman 17) Orlando D. Bowman 18) Lemual B. Adson
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Legislative Tracking Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services

03/24/21 12:21pm  
Date/Time

# Legislation No. 0047-21

Smith, Daniel J <daniel.smith@BIE.EDU>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:23 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

As a teacher in the BIE, I strongly support Legislation No. 0047-21. We've not seen our students in over a year. With the great success of vaccination efforts on the Navajo Nation and months of preparation and anticipation, the benefits vastly outweigh the negatives when it comes to reopening our schools. Our students are falling behind and many are shutting off from learning altogether. The longer we delay reopening, the more students we lose. The longer this goes on, the worse outcomes we'll see on the Navajo Nation - economically and culturally.

In the March 22nd memo, Johnathan Nez is quoted saying "The Navajo Nation's current position supports online learning for all schools.". The reality is that many students are not doing online learning due to both paper packet curricula and a lack of decent broadband access. Students of all age groups are dropping out, failing courses, are virtually truant, and are at an increasing risk for this continuing trend.

The data from the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Dashboard shows us at our lowest case counts since last March. I believe that by continuing safe practices, public health education, and the quick pace of vaccinations, we can safely reopen schools and get students back into schools where they do their best learning, learn from their peers, and have access to meals, counselors, teachers, clinics, and the variety of resources that schools have at their disposal to help students grow.

For the health and benefit of our Diné youths, please pass Legislation No. 0047-21.

**Mr. Daniel Smith**

Many Farms High School

Social Studies Department

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# NAVAJO NATION REOPENING COMMENTS

Robert Koerperich <koerp@holbrook.k12.az.us>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Greetings Navajo Nation Leaders-

I begin this communication with a heartfelt thank you for your leadership and guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire year, almost to date, has not been easy for anyone and leadership has been challenged on many levels as we make decisions in the best interest of those we serve. The need for and the relevance of a "thank you" has been amplified over the past year and we do thank you for your leadership.

As we progress into the last quarter of the school year, again, one year ago this week, the students of Indian Wells Elementary School have not been able to walk the hallways of IWES where they read, write, learn math, go to PE, receive hot meals, and learn social skills that will pave the future of each and every child.

Although IWES has made a noble effort to educate students through chromebooks and/or learning packets for learning, hot spots, daily meals, coaching/mentoring for students and parents, tutorial services and as many educational services as possible, the concern for learning loss, lack of engagement, attendance and overall students success is at an all-time high. Teachers and leaders are frustrated, students are missing out on essential instruction and the learning gaps are only continuing to grow wider and wider! Although our efforts have been remarkable, without students in our school, we can't fulfill our duty and responsibility to educate our students to meet our mission of Helping Unique Students Develop.

I often think about the Kindergarten student that was just beginning to read basic books in March of last year when the necessity to close schools occurred and that student has not been, to date, back in front of a teacher for over a year. Learning to read via a virtual platform is not an effective strategy and the fears of our K-3 students lacking a year of learning basic skills is overwhelmingly concerning for leaders, teachers, and parents. The learning gaps that have inevitably occurred over the past year will eventually impact our students as they progress throughout their academic careers. I fear for the long-term academic impact on our students. We have time to meet our students' needs but we must get started immediately with summer on the horizon when we will have little to no control over student learning within our system. We can't let 12 months turn into 16 months. We must re-engage with students now.

It is our professional judgement that it is time to offer on-site services for parents and students that make the choice to come back on campus (one of our premises from the start has been parental choice). We have over half of our families ready to return to a safe, healthy and educational environment. We can provide all three of these elements and have done so efficiently and effectively in our schools in Holbrook since September 14, 2020. We are also committed to providing virtual learning opportunities; as well as, learning packets to families as we have all year long if they choose that option.

IWES has procedures in place to provide a safe, healthy and educational environment to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff which is our highest priority to get students back in the classroom in front of teachers. We have less than 40 days left in SY 20-21 and we feel a sense of urgency that we must maximize the final 30 school days to get our students on track heading into summer and into SY 21-22.

We highly encourage the Navajo Nation rescind the Navajo Nation orders for virtual learning only and allow schools to begin opening in a safe, healthy and educational manner for those students and parents that choose to return for the remainder of the school year.

Again, thank you for your leadership, consideration and cooperation throughout these unprecedented times!

Wishing you all health and wellness,

Dr. Robbie Koerperich

Superintendent

Holbrook USD #3

[koerp@holbrook.k12.az.us](mailto:koerp@holbrook.k12.az.us)

*"Glad To Be A Roadrunner"*

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vinton.werito-Legislation No. 0047-21

Werito, Vinton M <Vinton.Werito@BIE.EDU>

Tue 3/23/2021 7:29 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

**Allow schools to return to in-person instruction in the classrooms**

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# Katarina Nelson - Legislation No. 0047-21

Katarina M. Nelson

Tue 3/23/2021 3:02 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Honorable President Nez,

I would like to **OPPOSE** the Legislation No. 0047-21.

I'd rather my children return to school, when the schools have a designated plan pertaining to Covid-19 in the school. Thank you.

**Katarina "Kat" Nelson**

Senior Office Specialist

Navajo Air Transportation

Division of General Services

P.O. Box 706,

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Ph: 928-871-6466 Fax: 928-871-6484

Personal Cell Phone:

**"Set your mind, that no matter what is going on in your life, you will have a good attitude."**

Joyce Meyer

# Renelda King-Sloan "Legislation No. 0047-21"

Renelda King-Sloan <rsking.sloan@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose to the proposed legislation.

If the public is still closed or limiting their guests due to the COVID-19 Safety Precautions for the safety of their workers & their customers, why are the schools planning to reopen?

I feel that the virus is not at a 50% containment yet.

Local stores within the city limits still only allow a limited amount of people inside.  
All the doors show signs of "Masks required", "no children", "One person per vehicle to shop" & "limited of \_\_\_ people inside at a time".  
Public restrooms are closed at the gas stations & other facilities.  
All the restaurants/fast food places only do to-go/drive-thru only.  
The Community Park is still closed off.  
The school playgrounds are closed.  
The entrance to the hospital is still being monitored for people coming in. You have to be stopped to answer questions by a staff member & they will direct where to go to park.  
Most places need to have appointments made over the phone or by email ahead of time.  
The Day Program for the disabled is closed & only allowing the live-in to be supervised.  
Meetings for work places are being held by teleconferences or zoom meetings.  
Twin Cinemas is closed.  
The Explore Navajo Interactive Museum is closed.  
The Public Library is closed.  
The Social Security Office is closed & only over the phone.  
Court dates are happening over the phone.  
Ferrell Gas is closed & only over the phone.  
I believe the DES building is closed as well.  
The Chapter House may be limiting people or may be closed, but last I have heard they had to close down a couple of times due to possible exposure & they needed to do deep cleaning.  
The Spring Festival/Carnival has been cancelled for 2021.  
Wells Fargo recently/barely opened up their lobby (with limited people inside).  
People who received both doses of the vaccine are still instructed to wear their masks, social distance & always sanitize.  
People are still being advised to not have gatherings or visit with people who don't live with them.

Kids will be kids. They like to play with other kids. Especially with their friends they haven't been able to hang out with in person for a whole year.  
They will hug, stand or sit by each other closely to talk & laugh with each other.  
I wouldn't want any child to get in trouble & being repeatedly to stand back, you're too close, where is your mask, your mask isn't on correctly, etc.

Please don't reopen the school for in-person sessions just yet.  
Let the rest of the school year end with online/zoom sessions.  
We'll pray that the Virus is more contained by August 2021.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response to this.  
Have a great day. Stay safe.

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FW: Legislation No. 0047-21

Jackson, Veloria L. (IHS/NAV) <Veloria.Jackson@ihs.gov>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Mr. NN President Nez, I am opposing the re-opening of the schools. At this point of time I think it is still too sudden. I am a parent of a 6 y/o boy. My precious love one hasn't been vaccinated. Still waiting. But I begin to think of the risks of all school children under the age of 16 whom aren't vaccinated just yet. I believe online/virtual learning is best for now. For the safety of our children, school teachers, etc. Thank you.

Veloria Jackson

parent

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Re: Legislation No. 0047-21

V Humm <veehummingbird@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 12:56 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Ya'at'eeh!

**NO to reopening the Schools (any school)! This is what you will see on the Waiver that Parents have to sign. DO WE WANT TO SIGN AWAY OUR CHILDREN?**

**Please Read, This is what the School are telling parents to sign off & if Leaders sign off, then you are signing away our children!!!**

*I acknowledge the extremely contagious nature of COVID-19 and specifically assume all risks and hazards associated with my child's in-person school attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic. I acknowledge that by attending class in person, my child will be associating with staff and other children and may acquire COVID-19 notwithstanding any precautions taken by the school. I acknowledge that the school cannot absolutely control the conduct of its students, guarantee that they or their parents will follow safety protocols and procedures, or prevent infected students from attending and potentially spreading COVID-19 to my child, directly or indirectly.*

*I further acknowledge that my child's physical attendance at a District school is wholly voluntary. By permitting my child to attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic, I voluntarily assume the risk that my child may acquire COVID-19, and that COVID-19 may subsequently be transmitted from my child to me and members of my household.*

**WE Have Elderlies at home where the students come from.**

*To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby agree to waive, release, and discharge any and all claims, causes of action, damages, and rights of any kind against the school, the District, its insurers, the District's governing board, and all of their respective employees, agents, representatives, and volunteers (the "Released Parties") arising from or relating in any way to any damage, injury, trauma, illness, loss, or death that may occur to my child, me, or my household members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*I further agree not to **sue** the Released Parties, and to defend and indemnify the Released Parties for all claims, damages, losses, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, if a suit is filed concerning an injury, illness, or death to me, my child, or my household members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**WOW!! Who are the School Districts kidding?? Schools won't be responsible; SO DO NOT HAVE REOPENING, IT is up to you Leaders in Window Rock. VOTE NO - DOODA!**

**Ahxehee'! to STAND up to Az Governor Ducey and wait till things back to NORMAL.**

*Do it WHite man's way OR our Native way & wait out.*

*Respectfully,  
Violet Harvey*

# Kristen Maloney & Murphy Bedonie - Legislation NO. 0047-21

Kristen harrison <nativeharris@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com <navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;  
24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

WE, as parents oppose Legislation NO. 0047-21. It is too soon to reopen the schools. My children need to be vaccinated for the COVID-19 before returning back to in-person school.

Our 2nd oldest son has asthma which is triggered when he gets sick. MY CHILDREN SAFETY COMES FIRST. I would like my children to be protected as well. I am concerned about the NEW Variants too.

Please think about ALL the children safety. COVID-19 Vaccine needs to be administered to children that are younger than 16 years old. We have a 3 year old, 13 year old and 15 year old in the household. We as parents have received our COVID-19 vaccine but still we are careful for our children BECAUSE they are not protected from COVID-19. Every child is different. Some may not get sick and some will get sick sick. I've read that some children GET paralyzed from the COVID-19 virus. I don't want my children or any child to suffer. EVERY CHILD IS DIFFERENT.

**VACCINE NEEDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE FIRST!!**

Thank you,

Kristen Maloney \ Murphy Bedonie

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# Charlissa Bilagody Legislation No. 0047-21

Charlissa Bilagody <csd8@nau.edu>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this email in regards to the reopening of the schools on the Navajo Nation.

My name is Charlissa Bilagody. I reside in Tuba City. I have three teenagers, 1 Junior and 1 Freshman who attend Tuba City High School, and 1-7th grader who attends Tuba City Boarding School.

Currently, I have a sense of peace that my children are still able to attend school safely from home due to Covid-19. My husband and I made the decision that it is too early for our children to go back to school, we are grateful that the numbers on the Navajo Nation are going down. The school year is almost over, those that wish to go back to school should do so, and those that prefer to finish the school year at home should be allowed to. My children are doing great with online learning, both schools have done what they can to ensure that my children are getting an education.

Our Nation needs to take time to heal, we have lost so many people too early during this pandemic. It is a relief that a lot of our Navajo people are getting vaccinated and even those who are 16 and up have been vaccinated as well. Despite the efforts of local health care facilities, there are still a lot of who meet the age requirement to receive the vaccine who still have not been vaccinated. We need everyone to be vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity and to eradicate COVID-19.

One out of three of my children has been able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. I don't want to send my other two children to school and risk them getting exposed to COVID-19, this virus is still unknown and we are still learning about it. It does not discriminate against age, the health of a person or how active one is. We do not know who will show symptoms and who will die from this virus and as a parent I WILL NOT gamble with my children's lives. They are too precious to me.

During this whole pandemic, my husband, our family has done what we need to, in order to protect our children from this deadly virus. We have obeyed the stay at home orders, the lockdowns and shelter in place orders that were placed by the Navajo Nation President.

I do not support the Legislation No. 0047-21. It is too early to send our children back to school. We need to protect our legacy and keep them safe. Schools should start planning for the next school year 2021-2022 and preparing the schools for the students to go to school safely. Schools need to put safety measures in order and make sure that safety guidelines are in place that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Charlissa Bilagody

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# Untitled

Brenda Adekai <badekai@rmusd.net>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:23 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning Dine People:

This message is in regards to Navajo Nation Legislation 0046-21 & 0047-21. Please keep schools on the Navajo Nation closed for the duration of 4th quarter due to the fact that our children are not vaccinated, and there is no plan in place to work around these issues. There will be no instruction due to the fact that teachers will be constantly working around the clock to keep the kids in check regarding the current situation such as mask, gloves, 6 ft distance and washing hands. That will be the only issue for 4th quarter. Issues above are the obvious reasons to keep schools closed until Fall 2021. Thank you for considering our childrens' and staff's well being on the Navajo Nation.

Ahehee,

CertifiedSchool Teacher

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# Alvina Tsosie "Legislation No. 0047-21"

Alvina Tsosie <alvinatsosie1@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:23 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thNNC@navajo-nsn.org <24thNNC@navajo-nsn.org>;  
navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com <navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Hello,

I am writing to oppose schools re-opening on the Navajo Nation. Even though our number of Covid-19 cases has stabilized and people are getting vaccinated, it does not mean we should rush back to get students in schools.

My biggest concern is that students who come may be asymptomatic and spread the virus amongst each other and the teachers/staff. We don't want students getting sick at school and taking the virus home to their families. Even with vaccinations, we are not 100% protected from getting the virus.

I do work at a school and I feel that is not safe enough for students to come back to school. I am nervous and scared to have students on campus even for the Arizona state testing that is being required of schools to administer.

I know that many parents have already expressed concern about schools re-opening and they don't want to send their children back to school. They would rather finish out the school year at home where it's safe for their children.

I hope you take my comments into consideration, for the health and well-being of our students and teachers/staff.

Thank you,  
Alvina Tsosie

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# Oppose 0047-21

Tanya Harry <tanyaharry7@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:23 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is LaTanya Harry, I currently reside in Ganado, Arizona where my 4 children attend Ganado Unified School District. I oppose to sending children back into the classrooms where there will be no social distancing or proper PPE available. I am concerned for my children's health as well as their lives. I am a nurse and have worked with and around COVID; this virus has NOT fully cleared our reservation so why would anyone think it is safe to send young lives back into a classroom or walk crowded hallways. School staff don't even have the proper PPE so I am sure children in school won't have it either. Survival of the fittest is not a model the Navajo people embraced, we have always been about Ke' - loved ones lives matter.

Sent from my iPhone

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Marisa Greeson <mlgreeson@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

I am opposed to opening up schools for School Year 2020-2021. The reason is that we are still in a pandemic and there is still a possibility that Covid-19 can be contracted in a face to face school setting. In addition, many of our Teachers are elderly and have declared themselves as high risk due to their chronic illnesses. Many of our elderly teachers have already decided to retire and many more may quit due to their anxiety of returning to an environment that can potentially harm them.

The Navajo Nation should consider the overall health and well being of teachers and students. Perhaps, when there is a vaccine for children we can explore the possibility of in person learning.

As a sovereign Nation, the Dine people should decide what is best for our people and should not risk additional people passing due to Covid.

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# No on Legislation No. 0047-21

Yvonne Honanie <yvonne.honanie@tcbstbird.net>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Yvonne Honanie, and I am an educator who has lived and worked on the Navajo reservation for the past 18 years. I am currently employed in Tuba City where I have also raised my family; this is home.

I am in strong opposition to the proposed Legislation No. 0047-21 at this time. As you know, NN had been hit hard with Covid-19. Due to our socio-economic issues which haven't changed in the past year, our people are still highly susceptible especially with the new variants in play, should there be a resurgence.

Although NN has done an excellent job in rolling out the vaccines, maintaining curfews, and educating on mask usage, re-opening schools at this critical juncture may undo all of the hard work that has been done thus far. Dr. Fauci recently reported that the USA Covid-19 cases have plateaued at a higher than desirable number, when the trend should be a continued downward decline. This plateau may indicate another resurgence, and Dr. Fauci recommended that all precautionary measures that were set in place before continue to be enforced. Now is not the time to become complacent and assume that we can resume life as "normal", which includes reopening schools.

I feel strongly that the schools ought to remain closed for the remainder of the school year in order to prepare properly for opening this fall. One of my main concerns as an educator and parent in the school that I currently work at, is the lack of ventilation; windows do not open. We have central air and heating, which means to me that our air is shared and recirculated in the school building. No amount of spray Lysol or antibacterial wipes will make me feel safe enough for myself or our children, to stay in an enclosed building for 6-8 hours per day. NN and the Bureau need to create a plan and fund new ventilation systems in the schools prior to reopening.

Thank you for allowing the community to share our concerns.

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# Cornelia Kedelty "Legislation No. 0047-21"

c K <cjkedelty@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Morning,

My comments on this legislation is to say "NO" to reopening the schools for in person sessions.

My reasons are:

1. Stimulus checks were delivered, NN Hardships were delivered. This allowed for families to commute off the Navajo Nation.
2. Students have NOT been given the vaccine shots, we don't know which families have positive or have gone through being positive. students could be asymptomatic and are carriers without knowing it.
3. I have other teachers who I know that have gone out of town over the weekend.
4. I see other community members NOT wearing their mask in public.
5. HOW DO YOU AS OUR NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT KNOW FOR A VERIFIABLE FACT THAT EVERY STUDENTS IS NOT A CARRIER OR HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS.

I for one am concerned for my grandkids because let's face it, students who come to school sick will not cover their mouths when they sneeze or cough. with them wearing their mask all day, i don't think every student will abide. Think about the nation's overall health and not just following the bandwagon of reopening because everyone else is doing it.

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Joey Joel <joeyjoel39@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:25 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Joey Begay

I do not support reopening schools at this time. We still need time for the general public to be vaccinated and I would request council revisit this issue until later on this fall when we see how the covid19 cases are. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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March 23, 2021

Legislation No. 0047-21

Honorable President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer,

I thought this over, over I **opposed** the Legislation No. 0047-21

I have grandson livings with me age 10, he has health problem and he go to Ganado Unified School District 20.

Are the GUSD/GMCSD ready to acceptance student back: I have concerns.

1. Are administration staff, teachers, bus drivers, janitors, etc. vaccinate.
2. Our student isn't vaccinated.
3. How is classroom, office, restroom, hallway situated are the teacher, administration be more precaution of students. COVID-19 is something we cannot deal with. Took our love one this past year 2020. We are still healing.
4. (2) more months (April / May) let's wait!
5. My grandchildren are previous they're God Gift; their attending these school Gallup McKinley County, Apache County on-line and my children are not ready to go back to school.
6. Young age children are not precaution of everything, please.
7. We got the experiences what teachers face every day, we became a best of the best Teacher Aide.

Your understanding is appreciated. God Bless you all.

Love in Christ,

Rose Nelson, Grandmother

# Legislation No: 0047-21

s'h`a`r`e <skuydust@yahoo.com>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Good Morning;

Legislation No: 0047-21.

My comments for re-opening schools are NO, do not open them back up for in-person learning. It would also be good, if parents had the option of in-person or continue online schooling. I have 4 kids still in school, my 2 younger ones are not of age to get the vaccine. It would be good for them to continue online schooling. I just don't want to chance the in-person schooling, I don't want to risk it for my children. So please do not reopen the school or at least give parents the option. Thank you.  
Cherilyn Sheppard, mother.

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# Legislation No.0047-21

Thomasita Begay <tabegay16@gmail.com>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To:24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Please consider this message as our vote for our children to continue online schooling for the remainder of the year. We have only a few months left of school. I understand that we need more one on one in person but we also can't afford to have anymore loss to Covid. If we're all honest it was only a couple days ago we had a day with 0 positive COVID cases and 0 deaths. So with that said I vote no to returning to school until the next school year.

Thank you,  
Thomasita A. Begay

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Nicolette Begay <nbegay14@yahoo.com>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am writing to object to Legislation No. 0047-21.

By allowing our children to return to in-person instruction, the Navajo Nation would be putting our young Navajo children at risk of contracting COVID-19. I am not willing to send my child, nor my nieces and nephews, back to in-person instruction because I believe it would be very dangerous to do so. Overall, I feel that Legislation No. 0047-21 is not in the best interest of the citizens of the Navajo Nation, and I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision.

Thank you,  
**Nicolette Begay**

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Dugi, Elouise <Elouise.Dugi@BIE.EDU>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning, I'm writing this letter in opposition to the re-opening of in-class learning. I feel that it's a bit too soon to re-open, despite the Covid 19 cases getting better. I feel that schools need more time to better prepare for students to come back into a safe environment. The safety of our teachers and teacher aides is very important, too. Give our community another 2 months to see if the Covid-19 cases, stay at zero cases. Not everyone chose to get vaccinated, too. This includes most of our students. Please, consider everyone's health and safety, before you decide to re-open our schools. Thank you ~ Mrs. Elouise Dugi

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Amy Kensley <akensley@sjsd.org>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Amy Kensley, and I am a third grade teacher at Tse'bii'nidzizgai Elementary in Monument Valley, Utah. I am against Legislation No. 0047-21.

I believe that in person learning is not in the best interests of our students and families at this particular time with variants of COVID case numbers going up in the areas around the Navajo Nation. Even though we have many people vaccinated, that doesn't mean things are back to normal, and our students, especially the smaller ones, will struggle staying masked and social distancing. I am also concerned about the procedures if someone in the school becomes positive for COVID. Having seen schools elsewhere in Utah dealing with this situation, (opening and closing every few weeks) and having talked with some of the parents of children at these schools, I am being told that this situation has raised the stress and anxiety levels of the children.

In conclusion, I believe opening the schools to in person learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year would be a very large mistake.

Thank you,

*Amy Kensley*

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# Legislation No. 0047-21 Public Comments

Roland Smallcanyon <rsmallcanyon@navajochapters.org>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:21 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Dear OP VP,

I disagree with reopening our school so soon while the COVID-19 virus is still lingering in our nation. The reason is I've seen the results of what the virus can cause to a young perfect child.

My grandson was in the hospital for a few weeks because of the virus. The result caused him to be not active like a normal young child anymore, because his artery close to his heart can burst anytime if you increase his heart rate. The doctor said he may grow out of it, which we are praying for. So with that said no kid should be exposed to the virus that can cause this or even cause death. I lost many friends and relatives to the virus.

The nation can wait until when more people are vaccinated, when the positive rates are down, and when it's really safe to release our children from below our wings. Now you can't have them, not when the MONSTER is still alive. Why are we rushing to reopen our schools? I don't want my grandkids to catch the virus!

Respectfully,

Roland Smallcanyon

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# Schools Reopening

kevinjohnson467@yahoo.com

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Afternoon,

I believe schools BIE/Grant Schools should open as a hybrid mode, and continue to grow from there. Covid-19, should not put FEAR in us (Dine People and Students), FEAR and being afraid is not your health and mind. Dine People and those who Trust in God, are over comers, Strong, More than conquers in Christ Jesus, no plague or disease will not come near the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation People are protected by the Blood of the Lamb Jesus Christ, We Plead the Blood over the Navajo Nation, No more Covid-19 or any disease you leave the Navajo Nation In The Name of Jesus. Amen

Don't Make C19 shots a condition to work or for students to attend school etc., Ke' we have a choice and a freedom. Don't take our Freedom of speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Assembly, we are One Nation Under God. God has provided us with this Great Land and God will continue to protect our children on the Nation Nation and across the World.

My Grandpa and Other Cheii both served for our County (USA), they where tough and fearless. They seen plagues, War at 18 years old, USA Drilled mines on Navajo Land with out research many Navajo People died due to toxic gases, but they (Dine People) continued to live on the Navajo Nation and make a living.

Don't be afraid of Covid-19, Covid-19 is afraid of you because you have Jesus Christ Living in the inside of you.

Father God, I pray for Navajo Nation President and Staff, Father God give them wisdom and knowledge to make good decision for the Navajo People, Students, parents, and community. We pray that they will come to know you as there Savior and trust you. We plead the blood over them No sickness, No disease, will come near there office, home, families, and communities. In Jesus Name Amen....

Thank you,

Kevin Johnson

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# Returning to In-Person Learning

Sam Ulibarri <samulibbarri24@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Afternoon President Nez,

As an educator I feel strongly that we are not ready to return to in-person learning. Half of the school year is already over and bringing students back at this late date does not make sense. Going back in a hybrid situation is not effective for students or teachers. Teachers are already struggling to teach virtual and the added stress of teaching virtual and in person will be too stressful.. We want our children to receive a quality education and if you stretch educators in both directions , that will not happen. Another problem that has not been addressed is transportation and social distancing in the classroom, as well as, the cafeteria. As an educator I strongly feel that we need to wait until the start of the next school year to return to in person teaching. This will give schools and administration time to follow the CDC guidelines and for staff to be fully vaccinated. Thank you for considering my input on this issue.

--

Samantha Ulibarri  
Educator

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Cindra Sam <cindra\_sam@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Cindra Sam, I'm from the Eastern Agency; Pueblo Pintado, NM. I am an educator and a parent in my community. I feel that it is still not safe for the students and staff to go back to in-school learning just yet. The reason being is for the safety of our children. Some have underlying health conditions and some have family they live with that have those health conditions as well. Even with the vaccine, only the adults are vaccinated and not our children. I am vaccinated but have an underlying health condition and I still feel that its not enough to protect us. I would feel comfortable to go back to in-school learning until there is a vaccine for our children. Thank you for asking for our opinion.

Cindra Sam

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# Legislation 0047-21

baah daakai <beautywater@live.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:22 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Mr. President,

This pasted year has been terrifying for the world and here at the local level of Coalmine Canyon, Arizona. Your leadership of implementing Stay at Home Order and Lock Down has help educate our people and saved our lives; but, it also hurts our soul for love ones we lost (relatives, neighbors, co-workers).

This legislation comes to soon to open schools across the reservation. As parent of two children attending school I need for my children to get one of three shots now available to the people. But they are not both of age and both have underlying health issues. Give my children options. We are ending the month of March and majority of schools end in May 2021. My children are comfortable with online classes their teachers are communicating with them on a daily basis and as a parent can view their work and grades to keep them on track.

I urge you to vetoe the legislation and have students complete their school year. We need data, statistic on how well the vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, JJ) is working within our bodies and how well its working against the new varient before we release our kids back into school system.

Thank you,  
WandaBegody  
Mother

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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# Comment on NNC Legislation 0047-21

Tyjay Begay <tyjaybegay@hotmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:23 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

Cc: Tyjay Begay <tyjaybegay@hotmail.com>;

March 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern;

I am providing comment on the 24th NNC Legislation 0047-21, a bill that would reverse the Navajo Nation's current position that supports virtual learning only due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, the legislation would possibly allow schools within the Navajo Nation to return to in-person instruction. As a parent of high school student within the Chinle Unified School District I have serious reservations on having students return to in person instruction at this time.

I feel that it is too soon to do so as we have not fully combated this Pandemic and the issue of the variants possibly emerging to create another spike in cases could be a possibility. The dispensing of vaccinations to the general public is occurring but what about our students? How will they be protected? The notion of establishing Herd Immunity will take some time and in doing so, I feel that having all students resume in person instruction should not happen this school year but instead prepare to execute the resuming of in person for the next school year.

The end of this school year is approaching in two months and rather than create a disruption in trying to get students into the schools have the remaining school year continue as virtual. More harm than good can happen in the short time period left of the school year, getting students pushed into the school system will be disruptive as they will need to acclimate to the surroundings and a great number of students will be apprehensive to resume being among their peers and this will take away from instruction again so rather than rush wait until the next school year to have plans to resume in person instruction ready.

As a parent of a student going through this pandemic, many challenges were brought on but having virtual learning for the remainder of the school year is best at this time. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and concern.

Signed,

Tyrone J Begay, Parent  
Chinle, AZ 86503

# Akira Tsosie, Legislation 0047-21

Akira Tsosie <akiratsosie@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon,

I support that we stay virtual learning until the end of the school year. It puts less stress both the teachers and students when new changes happen. It will take more time to get teachers and students acquainted to new changes and new routines.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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# Legislation No. 0047-21 Bill

Antoinette Cornfield <Antoinette.Cornfield@ganado.k12.az.us>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

## To Whom It May Concern:

Hello. My name is Antoinette Cornfield. I am originally from Ganado, Arizona. I work at Ganado High School as a Site Supervisor for a college program through Northern Pioneer College and a part-time Teacher Aide. I have 15 years of teaching experience with the district. As the 2020-21 SY started, I have been working onsite but when cases increased, I was told to work remotely. I am expressing my concern for schools not to reopen and keep virtual learning only at this time. From my observation, I feel that the district is not ready to reopen all schools. Here is an sample email that I have written to my supervisor a few weeks ago pertaining to having students (4 to 6 students at a time) in my classroom---to have onsite state testing such as the AZSci;

"For two family of members that have pre-existing conditions and for my safety, I am requesting **not** to be on the list as a proctor during State Testing. I had fully expressed my safety to not allow anyone in my work setting at any time due to COVID-19. With the new development of variants or strands, I do not see why anything should reopen at this time. Superintendent Dr. Dobias stated, *"We cannot let our guard down. I also ask that that employees not go into each other's offices. The virus is heading in a good trajectory on the reservation and we don't want to jeopardize this. We also need to be careful because the new variants are more contagious."*

If not offices, why not classrooms? There must be another alternative for students to complete their onsite State Testing because students, their families, and our safety should be considered first. While working onsite these are questions that pondered my mind through observation and concerns: How strong is the District or Staff contingency plan?(*Still in the planning*) What supplies and items been given for our safety? (*Still in the planning/purchase on my own*) Why hasn't custodial and janitorial operations been increasing daily (*Poorly done*)?

When we see COVID-19 cases decreasing, and knowing variants are emerging...that should be considered a red flag. I am speaking not just for my health and well-being but for others as well. I hope you may consider my request and thank you for your efforts." -AC-

I am a caregiver two members of my family who have pre-existing conditions. I also have no luck convincing the Housing Committee to approve my Housing Application from the district. Since, I am

not considered "certified," I am not eligible for residency. I am practically living with relatives at the moment. This has been an ongoing problem for many years as an employee. Reason being, with COVID-19 still in existence, and variants are emerging, I can put my family at risk.

Thank you for finding the time to read my statement and concerns. May the good Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Be Blessed,

**Antoinette P. Cornfield**



**Antoinette Cornfield**

Ganado High School Teacher

p: (928) 755-1500 • f: (928) 755-1502

e: [Antoinette.Cornfield@ganado.k12.az.us](mailto:Antoinette.Cornfield@ganado.k12.az.us)

w: [ghs.ganado.k12.az.us](http://ghs.ganado.k12.az.us)

Ganado Unified School District • P.O. Box 1757 • Ganado, Arizona 86505

Our Mission is to ensure all students a quality education and strengthen Diné cultural values for life-long learning is to be a professional learning community that focuses on students exceeding educational expectations.

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Shane Nez <shanenez07@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

To whom it may concern:

In my opinion, schools on the Navajo Nation should FINISH the SCHOOL YEAR ONLINE. As a paraprofessional, we need to wait & see if these vaccines are effective & how long immunity will last. As, stated by doctors, WE ARE NOT SURE HOW LONG THEY WILL LAST. This is a very difficult year, we all know that students will be behind, we know that, but we cannot rush to reopen, because we see low cases. It's better we wait & see how the upcoming months show. We need to show the Nation data that yes, we are trending in the right direction. We need to see a REOPENING PLAN from each of the schools. A plan for: LUNCH - how are we gonna distance the children? Or eat outside? BUSES: temperature checks? Physical distancing? Multiple bus pick ups, MOST buses do over crowd the bus during a half day. EMPLOYEES: will there be a signed document stating they will obey anytype of COVID-19 protocol....such as: isolating while sick, quarantine from coming back from hot spots/ out of state travel. Another note: Employees are told to use their own leave for this, will the Navajo Nation provide schools with money for that set leave? RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS: Will the schools continue the dormitory living? Will those students be vaccinated? PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO GET THE VACCINE: will teachers be notified about children's families who object to the vaccine? NEW VARIANTS: is the current (2) vaccines from Pfizer & Moderna, be effective to the new variant? HAS THERE BEEN STUDIES PROVEN CHILDREN WON'T SPREAD THE VIRUS?

I would feel a lot better as a paraprofessional that students/ staff return in the FALL. Only because we will know these vaccines will work & schools will have MORE TIME TO GET A PLAN READY. Yes, some have a plan in place, but DATA CHANGES EVERY WEEK & PLANS ARE FROM SPRING/SUMMER 2020. And we will know if the vaccines for children are effective.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Shane Nez

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Legistation No.0047-21

Good Morning <eat.02.nm@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:24 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Morning

My feeling to reopen the schools on the reservation is to wait until August because there are still case of the Covid -19 on the raise through out the reservation and we do not who has been vaccine and who has not been vaccine yet a lot of people do not want to get their vaccine shots we have to make sure that the Covid-19 is really gone or clear from the reservation because a lot of people still travel off the reservation and we have to continue with the social distance and wearing mask there is a lot

Of things to think about for the safety of the students and the staff and bus drivers they all family to go home to at the end of the day

Thank you

Elaine Toledo

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Pete-Deschenie, Joanne E <joanne.pete-descheni@BIE.EDU>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:25 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

I am in support of opening the schools back up limited or in a hybrid schedule according to the choice of the parents. If they want their child to attend school, they can. If not, they can stay home and continue online or packet schooling. Our school has had to continue packets and they are not conducive to learning and are conducive to ghosting.

As a teacher seeing the failure rate at the high school level I am extremely concerned. I hope that a hybrid learning schedule will bring the students at risk back into an environment for catching up and learning.

Thank you,

*JoAnne Pete-Deschenie*

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Kristen Hosteen, , "Legislation No. 0047-21"

Kristen Hosteen <mrshosteen@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 7:28 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>; navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com  
<navajonationpubliccomments@gmail.com>;

I believe schools need to reopen. The infrastructure of the Navajo Nation is in disarray. There isn't enough cell towers, broadband, or other means to access the internet. Most students cannot properly distance learn because they do not have access to the internet, which in turn means they cannot access instruction by the teacher, interactions with the teacher and peers, or learning materials. If you were to keep distance learning our students will fall further and further behind.

At this point, the majority of adults do have their vaccines. We can go back safely. If we do not go back, then the Navajo Nation needs to quickly find a way to provide quality access to the internet for all students.

Thank you

--

**Mrs. Kristen Hosteen**  
**4th Grade Teacher**  
**Tuba City Boarding School**

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# School Re-Opening Plan

Leberta Henderson <leberta\_h@hotmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 7:30 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To: Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President

Re: Legislation No. 0047-21

Date: March 23, 2021

To whom it may concern,

In regards to the school re-opening plan, I believe it is still to pre-mature of re-opening the schools. I have 5 grandchildren that currently attends Tuba City Boarding School. It has only been a few days since we have only had 0 new cases, 0 death due to the deadly COVID Pandemic. I recommend that we return back to school until the next School Year 2021-2022, if Navajo Nation continues with the 0 new cases and 0 death.

I do worry about my grandchildren's education and knowing that they have fallen one year behind in their academics. For my grandchildren to get caught up, it is to add another school year. My grandchildren's current good health is my main concern, I have kept my children safe and have been following all protocols to the prevention of becoming infected with this infectious disease and I would like to keep it that way for the health of my grandchildren. All my grandchildren are under the ages of 16 are still vulnerable to catching this sickness due to not being protected with vaccination.

I have a question? Is the COVID vaccination only to suppress COVID symptoms or is it a prevention of catching the disease? I recommend that the Navajo Nation make that determination that we wait until next School Year 2021-2022. Thank you

*Leberta Henderson*  
*Tuba City, Arizona*

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Shea J. Slim <sheasmiles4@gmail.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 3:30 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; 24thnnc <24thnnc@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Shea Slim I have 3 kids in school on the reservation in the Western Agency.

For the safety of my kids & others I want my kids to STAY VIRTUAL.

IT IS TOO EARLY TO OPEN UP ANY SCHOOL.

I dont think any child will want tl wear a facemask all day so VIRTUAL LEARNING IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN!!!!

THANK YOU & BE SAFE

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Theresa James <tjames@sjsd.org>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Greeting:

I am an educator who has been teaching on the Navajo Nation for about 25 years now, I was raised at Navajo Mountain and currently am working at Monument Valley High School, Utah.

I understand the healthy, welfare and safety of people in our communities is paramount. I also understand the necessary precautions needed to help protect and minimize the spread of Covid-19, and agree that these practices need to continue. With this being said, I believe wholeheartedly that our children need to return to school and have in-person instruction. After a year of teaching virtually, I've seen our students lose interest in learning. Our children are missing out on so much instruction and are falling behind. Most of our students start off behind most students educationally, and by not being in school they are getting further behind. It does not help that many places on the Navajo Nation do not have adequate internet service and students are not able to access internet services. A majority of our parents are not able to tutor or help their children with assignments at home. This is just the surface of the numerous problems we face trying to teach virtually.

As an educator I see my role as a person who is preparing our children to compete globally for jobs, I am preparing our children to one day lead and take care of us when we become elders, and I see my job as a second parent helping them socially and emotionally because of the amount of time I spend at school with my students. Since they have not been in school, I've had many of my students contact me wanting to talk about their struggles.

Most schools are a "safe place" for our students, they have nowhere to go now.

Students are missing out on academic and athletic scholarships. They are ill-prepared for ACT tests, and other requirements for college entrance. I could list many, many other reasons why our children need to be back in school but I think with all the comments you all get it.

I've seen schools with 1500 kids stay open and do in-person instruction without having to shut-down due to Covid-19. With most adults and young people over the age of 16 getting vaccinated this will help in getting students back in school, I hope. I figure if we educators are diligent in applying the necessary precautions put in place to minimize the spread of Covid-19, and we all understand the importance of these practices; we can do this! We can do this - because our children deserve a good education. We are ready to do this!

Terri James

Monument Valley High School, Utah

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Leg. # 0047-21

Colleen Bigman <crbigman@gmail.com>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern,

My comment includes the utilization of a hybrid model. I believe families should have the option to continue virtual learning or return to on-site learning in the classroom. There are several families that have severe health concerns that will put them at a greater risk if they are made to return to school, however there are families that need the direct support of school programs that will benefit entire families with several children. Whatever is decided, the NN needs to take into consideration the varying needs of the families and communities. It would be most helpful to gather data from each community in regards to the c-19 impact before decisions are made.

CB

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# Fwd: Legislation 0047-21 / Schools on NN.

O Orr <orrimsgmail.com>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Navajo Nation: Regarding Legislation 0047-21 / Schools on NN.

Schools & parents should be provided the voice of in-person learning. However, let's learn from what other school districts are encountering. That research and learning time-frame can be after this year's calendar semester, e.g., end of May 2021.

From my perspective there should be an opportunity for:

1. A hybrid effort, two days remotely and 3 days in class. After 1<sup>st</sup> Fall Semester, this effort evaluated.
2. Parent and student input for in-person 5 days in class.
3. Students age 16 and above, with parents, decision on vaccine. However, always ensure social distance and face masks mandatory.

Orlando D. Bowman.

Window Rock, Navajo Nation (AZ)

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# reopening

Lemual Adson <Lemual.Adson@kayenta.k12.az.us>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:13 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I encourage the both the Navajo Council sub-committees and full council to rescind the orders of distance learning only.

1. When one considers the safety of the students and employees in the schools you must think beyond only the safety from the COVID-19 Virus. Students are in need of mental, social, spiritual and physical safety. With schools and Navajo both shut down the services of support such as social workers, counselors, mental health, and others has been non-existent for a year. There is no data to indicate the severity of those young people that have been suffering in silence. Through anecdotal data there is indication of students suffering in silence as we all sit in our safe place and do nothing except wait. I ask that the council consider more than physical safety of the students and include social and emotional needs of the students.
2. The long range damage that we are supporting is devastating. We are contributing to disparity at a level beyond what we have ever experienced as indigenous people. The difference now is we are actively contributing to the damage. Poverty will increase. Substance abuse will increase. Suicide will increase. Neglect will increase. Abuse will increase. It will become generational due to our own self-inflicted restrictions based on a pandemic of fear. Now is the time to move on. We cannot as a people just "wait". The gating criteria was established so we don't just "wait". We move forward, we learn, we make a positive impact on the suffering.
3. Students are leaving school. Many may never return. Students have left home because being at their friends home or out in the street is better than being in a home of abuse and neglect. Parents are abusing substances more than before since the older kids are home to take care of the younger kids. From a systemic point of view we are enabling neglectful parents with our fear and leaving students to deal with isolation, fatigue, and uncertainty alone. Each action we do is contributing negatively to our demise as a people.
4. Color codes and gating criteria have been established to reopen. The gating criteria is met in many areas to reopen. If we are not to follow the gating criteria there is no reason to have such numbers to reopen. True numbers must be shared for true consideration of reopening. If the number of the spread of the COVID-19 is to be zero make that the criteria. A moving target creates hope that is non-existent. Zero may never happen. COVID-19 may always be present to a limited extent and the vaccination may be an annual thing we do. COVID-19 may continue to cause death. COVID-19 may be as normal as the flu in the future.
5. Many people are becoming accustomed to putting forth minimal effort and being paid. We are losing our passion for the profession of helping kids learn. We are becoming a group of people that are looking at students as little germs waiting to infect us. This message is being sent to students that are already suffering. More damage is inflicted if we allow the people that do not wish to work to continue to stay home and provide minimal effort to student learning and maximal effort to long-range damage. The epidemic of fear will become worse than the actual epidemic. The epidemic of putting forth little effort for maximum payout will become worse if we continue to live in fear. The hypocrisy among people is evident. The only place that is "yeeyah" is the school. Navajo people are out and about violating orders. Living life. Doing what they want, but when it comes to schools it is yeeyah.
6. Parents have choices. Parents can choose what is best for their children. These parents love their children beyond keeping them from physically contracting the COVID-19. These parents do not love their children less, but may in fact love them more because they see the whole child.
7. Superintendents and school boards have the courage to take responsibility for the subsequent results of our efforts. Currently we are living with the fact that we are contributing to the demise of our future with our

decision making. Locally we can and will make decisions that support positive contribution to our communities and nation. Leadership is about courage.

I encourage each of you to consider rescinding the orders and resolutions that are contributing to the demise of a generation of young people that will impact the nation negatively.

Thank you.

Lemual B. Adson  
Superintendent

*Ideation, Analytical, Learner, Competition, and Intellection. CliftonStrengths  
Themes: Strategic x 4, and influence x 1.*



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