

## 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.  
3

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*

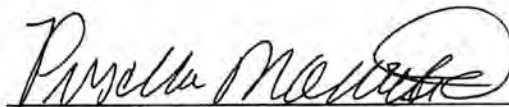
6. During a telephone conference on August 13, 2020, the BIE Acting Associate Director Charles Sherman assured the Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and the Department that BIE schools operating schools on the Navajo Nation would begin online learning with no in-person instruction. He has since changed 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	

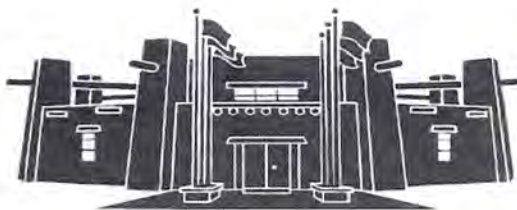
Nay : 0

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'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"**

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



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

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# 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>; Anamaneela.rico@ganado.k12.az.us <Anamaneela.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)

??

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 <terrac26@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.

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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

<p>Comments/Recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Roland Smallcanyon</li> <li>2) Kevin Johnson</li> <li>3) Samantha Ulibarri</li> <li>4) Cindra Sam</li> <li>5) Wanda Begody</li> <li>6) Tyrone J. Begay</li> <li>7) Akira Tsosie</li> <li>8) Antoinette P. Cornfield</li> <li>9) Shane Nez</li> <li>10) Elaine Toledo</li> <li>11) JoAnne Pete-Deschenie</li> <li>12) Kristen Hosteen</li> <li>13) Leberta Henderson</li> <li>14) Shea J. Slim</li> <li>15) Terri James</li> <li>16) Colleen Bigman</li> <li>17) Orlando D. Bowman</li> <li>18) Lemual B. Adson</li> </ol>
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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 Savor 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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Committee Report

THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL to whom has been assigned;

LEGISLATION NO. 0047-21

AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'YATI' 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".

Sponsor: Honorable Carl Roessel Slater  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka  
Co-Sponsor: Honorable Pernell Halona  
(Eligible for Committee Action March 23, 2021)

Has had under consideration and report the same with the recommendation that Legislation 0047-21 pass with no amendment and no directive; and therefore referred the same to the NAABIK'YATI COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel E. Tso, Chairperson  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee

**March 24, 2021 - Main Motion**

Motion by: Honorable Pernell Halona

Seconded by: Honorable Paul Begay Jr.

Vote: 4 in favor; 1 Opposed; Chairperson Not Voting

Yeas: Pernell Halona, Carl R. Slater, Edison J. Wauneka, Paul Begay Jr.

Nays: Charlaine Tso

Not Voting: Daniel E. Tso

Absent (excused):

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting  
March 24, 2021

Roll Call  
Vote Tally Sheet

THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO  
NATION COUNCIL to whom has been assigned;

LEGISLATION NO. 0047-21

AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'IYATI'  
COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESCINDING CO-84-20, ENTITLED, "AN  
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COVID-19; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION IN RECOMMENDING  
VIRTUAL LEARNING".

*Sponsor: Honorable Carl Roessel Slater*  
*Co-Sponsor: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka*  
*Co-Sponsor: Honorable Pernell Halona*  
*(Eligible for Committee Action March 23, 2021)*

March 24, 2021 - Main Motion

Motion by: Honorable Pernell Halona

Seconded by: Honorable Paul Begay Jr.

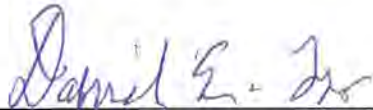
Vote: 4 in favor; 1 Opposed; Chairperson Not Voting

Yeas: Pernell Halona, Carl R. Slater, Edison J. Wauneka, Paul Begay  
Jr.

Nays: Charlaine Tso


Not Voting: Daniel E. Tso

Absent (excused):



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Daniel E. Tso, Chairperson  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee



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Michele M. Cook, Legislative Advisor Pro Tem  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee



**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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Dane Smith</li> <li>2) LaVerne Deschner-Dillon</li> <li>3) Eilene Joe</li> <li>4) Shaun Haven</li> </ul>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ervin Chavez</li> <li>2) Naal Zheehi</li> <li>3) Cheryl Johns</li> <li>4) Delarissa Tacheene</li> <li>5) Jessie Henderson</li> <li>6) Vanessa Curtis</li> <li>7) Renae Whiterock</li> <li>8) Lorlene Atencio</li> <li>9) Vanessa Mescal</li> <li>10) Mikesha Nez</li> <li>11) Evangeline Kesoli</li> <li>12) LaTanya McCabe</li> </ul>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Northern Navajo Agency</li> <li>2) Shiprock Chapter</li> <li>3) Upper Fruitland Chapter</li> <li>4) Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter</li> <li>5) Tse Dáá K'áán Chapter</li> <li>6) Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter</li> <li>7) San Juan Chapter</li> <li>8) Jolene Yazzie</li> <li>9) Leona Nelson</li> </ul>

	10) Skinny Foster 11) Audreann Wauneka 12) Marsha Tracy 13) Nita Hogue 14) Aaron Simonson 15) Lenora Simonson 16) Tennell Gilmore 17) Lucia Perry 18) Marie Morales 19) Genice West 20) Arlene Tsosie 21) Gail Begay 22) Andrea Billy 23) Belinda Badonie 24) Vee Humingbird
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*V. BLANK*

Legislative Tracking Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services

*March 26, 2021 12:37pm*

Date/Time

# Support for Legislation 0046-21 and 0047-21

Dane Smith <gr8tdane505@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:38 PM

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

Dear Honorable Council Delegates:

I am strongly urging your support for Legislation 0046-21 and 0047-21 to rescind online only instruction. In short, parents and students need to make the decisions themselves about what's best for their education. Online only instruction has been bad for our students and had a negative impact on their education.

Schools and districts should be allowed to reopen in a safe and smart manner with all proper precautions taken, while also respecting and honoring parent/student choice.

It seems misleading by the President to say that rescinding these legislations will lead to schools and classrooms being packed to capacity with no safety measures in place. It almost seems like scare tactics and misinformation to say that schools will become COVID-19 hotspots and putting kids and families in danger. Schools should be allowed to reopen in a safe manner with appropriate safety precautions and oversight in place.

It's not right when casinos on the Nation are allowed to reopen, while schools can't. Where's the logic or wisdom in that decision?

Vaccinations have been rapidly deployed, vaccinations are at high levels, and COVID-19 infections are down. I also understand that schools have been aggressively pushing to get their school staff (teachers) vaccinated and students over 16+ vaccinated.

Please examine facts, rather than gossip, rumors, and caving in to scare tactics when making this vote. In-person or online/virtual only instruction for students still remains parent choice. Allow parents the ability to make the decision about what is best for their kids. Don't take that away. Our kids and students deserve the very best education and online only isn't cutting it. Please vote YES to rescind Legislation 0046-21 and 0047-21. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dane Smith  
Shiprock, NM

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Deschner-Dillon, Laverne <Laver.Deschnerdillon@BIE.EDU>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:41 PM

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

I am in favor of the legislation. We were not able to provide direct instruction to a majority of our students, due to the pandemic, lack of infrastructure, etc., The delivery of learning packets, was not suitable for students that needed hands-on learning. This is the main concern of us educators, or employees at a school.

LaVerne Deschner-Dillon  
Business Specialist (Human Resources)  
MANY FARMS HIGH SCHOOL  
P.O. Box

MANY FARMS, AZ 86538  
(928) 781-6212, ext. 5204  
Fax: (928) 781-6355

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**From:** Knight, Tonya M <tonya.knight@bie.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:25 PM

**To:** Andrade, Christina M <christina.andrade@BIE.EDU>; Bahe, Herman <Herman.Bahe@BIE.EDU>; Balsar, Cayla <cayla.balsar@bie.edu>; Begay, Cynthia H <Cynthia.Begay@BIE.EDU>; Begay, Emmalana <emmalana.begay@BIE.EDU>; Begay, Gary <Gary3.Begay@BIE.EDU>; Begay, Gary <gary2.begay@bie.edu>; Begay, Harrison <Harrison.Begay@BIE.EDU>; Begay, Jonathan A <jonathana.begay@bie.edu>; Begay, Lila M <LILA.BEGAY@BIE.EDU>; Begay, Miranda J <Miranda.Begay@BIE.EDU>; Bekay, Bobbie J <bobbie.bekay@BIE.EDU>; Bell, Brian A <Brian.Bell@bie.edu>; Benallie, Marty <martybenallie@bie.edu>; Benally, Brenda A <BRENDA.BENALLY@BIE.EDU>; Benally, Leonard <leonard.benally@BIE.EDU>; Bitsilly, Lula A <lula.bitsilly@bie.edu>; Bitsui, Ilene <ilene.bitsui@BIE.EDU>; Charley, Jonathan <Jonathan.Charley@BIE.EDU>; Chee, Elroy R <Elroy.Chee@BIE.EDU>; Claw, Edison J <Edison.Claw@BIE.EDU>; Crosby, Diandra <diandra.crosby@BIE.EDU>; Cunnane, Enda F <Enda.Cunnane@BIE.EDU>; Dan, Arnold <Arnold.Dan@BIE.EDU>; DeJolie, Gallie <gallie.dejolie@BIE.EDU>; Descheenie, Jeffery J <Jeffery.Descheenie@BIE.EDU>; Deschenie, Tullus S <tullus.deschenie@BIE.EDU>; Deschner-Dillon, Laverne <Laver.Deschnerdillon@BIE.EDU>; De Wilde, Joseph C <joseph.dewilde@BIE.EDU>; Dick, Sheldon <Sheldon.Dick@BIE.EDU>; Boyd, Corvina D <Corvina.Boyd@BIE.EDU>; Etsitty, Dale S <dale.etsitty@BIE.EDU>; Etsitty, Linda E <Linda.Etsitty@BIE.EDU>; Francher, Dorothy J <dorothy.francher@BIE.EDU>; Francis, Donny D <Donny.Francis@BIE.EDU>; Garcia, Eunice A <Eunice.Garcia@BIE.EDU>; Harvey, Mary L <Mary.Harvey@BIE.EDU>; Haven, Lovelene R <lovelene.haven@BIE.EDU>; Hobson, Cecilia M <Cecilia.Hobson@BIE.EDU>; James, Roland <Roland.James@BIE.EDU>; James, Tulene R <Tulene.James@BIE.EDU>; Begay, John H <John.Begay@BIE.EDU>; Johnson, Donna A <Donna.Johnson@BIE.EDU>; Lamothe, Michael O <Michael.Lamothe@BIE.EDU>; Lee, Tina R <Tina.Lee@BIE.EDU>; Leonard, Jerren <JERREN.LEONARD@BIE.EDU>; Littleben, Irene <Irene.Littleben@BIE.EDU>; Martin, Daniel N <daniel.martin@BIE.EDU>; Martinez, Bertha <Bertha.Martinez@BIE.EDU>; Mckinley, Reid <Reid.Mckinley@BIE.EDU>; Miller, Alvin M <Alvin.Miller@BIE.EDU>; Morris, Cecelia <Cecelia.Morris@BIE.EDU>; Morris, Leonardra E <Leonardra.Morris@bie.edu>; Nalwood, Velma M <Velma.Nalwood@BIE.EDU>; Oakham, Rebecca L <REBECCA.OAKHAM@BIE.EDU>; Pete-Deschenie, Joanne E <joanne.pete-descheni@BIE.EDU>; Preston, Raven W <Raven.Preston@BIE.EDU>; Sam, Brian C <Brian.Sam@BIE.EDU>; Shaw, Carma L <Carma.Shaw@BIE.EDU>; Shepherd, Timothy <Timothy.Shepherd@BIE.EDU>; Smith, Daniel J <daniel.smith@BIE.EDU>; Stevens, Eugene E <Eugene.Stevens@BIE.EDU>; Tabaha, Shirley <Shirley.Tabaha@BIE.EDU>; Taylor, Davidson <Davidson.Taylor@BIE.EDU>;

# Support to Legislation No 0047-21

Eilene Joe <eilenejoe86@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:21 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am in support of Legislation No 0047-21 for our children to return to the classroom. Our children have been out of the classroom too long. Science supports children to return to school. We cannot continue to be gripped with fear and keep our children home. Our children need classroom learning, it is apart of their development. Many children are failing because their parents are working or lacking parent involvement. To my understanding teachers are fully vaccinated and they also know that we still have safety protocols to follow to keep our children safe daily. Please return our children back in the classroom, the majority of the world have return to school but not us. Thank you for hearing me out, and thank you for your time.

Eilene Joe

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Shaun Haven <shaunhaven@icloud.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 8:37 PM

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

Dear Sir,

We are residents of the Chinle chapter and we are in favor of having our children return to in-person schooling. Statistically, the Navajo Area Indian Health Service reported that over 191,064 vaccine doses have been provided reservation-wide. At this point there have been few to no new cases reported in the Chinle area in the last couple of weeks. If we can implement precautionary measures, like other schools located off the reservation, there is a lower risk to our youth overall. For many of our school children, the school environment is often the safest place for them to be. Teachers, as well as community members with the highest risk, have been given the vaccination.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has the following tool box for schools to safely open: *Essential Elements of Safe K-12 school Operations for In-Person Learning*.

In general, the academic progress and social maturity of our children are hindered the longer they remain at home. Our children should be allowed to return to in-person schooling, especially if schools plan on utilizing safety procedures that are recommended by the CDC.

Shaun Haven, Teacher  
Chinle Junior High School

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# Legislation 47-21

Ervin Chavez <echvz0953@outlook.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 2:31 PM

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

I am hereby submitting this opposition to rescind CO 84-20 which put all Navajo Nation School on to on-line schooling due to COVID 19. Even with the numbers of COVID Infections going down with the availability of vaccine, the unknown factor still remains. I strongly feel that to reopen everything like schools and businesses too soon will spike the COVID numbers again. Another virus call the variant virus is making its way across this nation. Putting our children back to in-person learning again will put them and their families in danger of illness again much like COVID did. The Navajo Nation needs to wait until the fall to reopen. By then we should know how the COVID and VARIANT virus are being handle. We only have 8 weeks left in School Year 2020-2021 and we should let the school year continue on-line. We need to make our own decisions based on the safety of our children and people and not just follow what State Schools are doing. The community schools fully support the position of President Nez when he stated that School year 2020-2021 should remain on-line.

Ervin Chavez, Nageezi Chapter President, DziłthNaOdilthle Grant school Board President and Dine Bil Ota School Board President.

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# Rox Daw Legislation No. 0047-21

Naal Zheehi <naalzheehi@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:40 PM

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

I am a teacher who opposes the reopening of schools. As teachers, we are completely overwhelmed yet we continue to persevere through daily challenges at the cost of our own mental and emotional health. Virtual learning is safer and has been the only consistency in the childrens lives and we all have been through so much. A change would require hasty decision making and lack of coordination. We keep piling and piling on the stress without much success . More thorough planning, logistics, communication, and understanding needs to addressed so why not work those out during the next coming months and be prepared for the upcoming school year. We may not get the support of parents, administration, school boards regarding our say or our health, but a path to better equipping each school and teachers is more proactive rather than hurdling the students back into an environment of uncertainty and lack of school leadership and community support of their teachers.

I enjoy teaching students but this time I speak for my own health and this entire year has not been easy on anyone. Prepare to open until the new school year.

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Cheryl Johns <cheryljohns07@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:40 PM

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

Good morning/afternoon,

I, Cheryl Johns, a parent of an elementary (3rd grade) and junior high (7th grade) students, are not in favor of reopening the schools this school year, 2020-2021. We are currently in 4th quarter of the year, and it seems as though teachers, staff, students, and some parents have found a routine and groove of how this school year has been going. Personally, my children are now used to receiving their classroom instruction virtually. They have gained independence, responsibility, and more knowledge from distance home learning. This may not be the case for every household that has children in K-12 schools, however, what is the proposed plan to return students to school?

A mass return to the school wouldn't seem like the right way to go as we (Navajo Nation) haven't been without COVID-19 positive cases for more than a month. Some of our people are still on the fence about receiving the vaccine, and if these individuals are in a household that has children in K-12 schools, how do we assure our children are safe from contracting the virus. Children under the ages of 15 are still susceptible to the virus because they cannot receive the vaccine. Older children ages 16+ should be encouraged to receive the vaccine to cut down the possibility of a spread especially when schools share both the Junior High and High School building such as Whitehorse High School in Montezuma Creek, Utah.

If we are looking at options for the next school year, 2021-2022, that's a different story. The option that would ease my mind and possibly other parents is to only have 50% of the students return on certain days and the other 50% on another day to be able to maintain the 6ft social distancing (3ft in schools especially for younger children doesn't seem plausible right now).

These are my thoughts, but I'm sure they differ greatly from parents who are both working or single-parents, as their children could be in need of more clear instruction on a daily basis. It is also children who are living with grandparents are the ones in need of more in-person instruction.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and taking into consideration my and other parent's concerns.

Kind regards,

Cheryl J.

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# Delarissa Tacheene- Legislation No. 0047-21

Delarissa <delarissa@yahoo.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:41 PM

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

As a member of the Navajo Nation, I am opposed to Legislation No. 0047-21. I'm concerned about the health and safety of our staff, their families, our students, and their families. We do not know if all staff and student family members have received their COVID 19 vaccination shot(s) in their household or those they are in contact with. Continuing our schools online is still our safest option. Starting school in person in the fall will give schools more time to prepare and also give families ample time to receive their vaccination shots. Please reconsider the soft opening of our schools. Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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## LEGISLATION NO. 0047-21

\*me-me\* <franhndrsn@yahoo.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:41 PM

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

I am In full support of school continuing virtual learning. School should remain closed until COVID-19 is completely diminished. As a mom and professional educator, I do not feel comfortable for my child or myself to return to school. I know that some families have not receive the vaccine. Therefore families may carry this from home to work to schools.

Please keep our families safe and the Navajo Nation safe in keeping schools virtual.

Thank you,

Jessie Henderson

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# Legislation 0047-21

Vanessa Curtis <n3ssi3.curtis@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:10 PM

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

Vanessa Curtis

I'd like to oppose to reopening the schools in the Navajo reservation due to the covid-19 virus. Reading on how the numbers have decreased is very touching but we as a nation aren't out of the clear just yet and I think we should take the remainder of this school year to stay social distancing and continue with virtual learning. Our children are our future and their lives would be at risk since the virus hit the Navajo Nation the hardest. Please don't send them back just yet. Give it the remainder of this school year and look to August to reopen.

Thank you.

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## Legislation No. 0047-21

Renae Whiterock <renae.whiterock@tcbstbird.net>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

Name: Renae Whiterock

Re: Legislation No. 0047-21

My name is Renae Whiterock. I am a teacher at the Tuba City Boarding School. Before I give my input on, from the bottom of my heart. I would like to take this time to thank our Navajo Nation President and Navajo Nation Leaders for helping all those in need, keeping our people safe, and providing the updated information about COVID-19. I know the Lord our Savior will have his special blessings bestowed upon these individuals that are so giving of themselves and their time. May the good Lord continue to be with each and everyone of you.

I OPPOSE in person instruction. I believe our lives and the lives of others to be more important than attendance to get more money for our schools. We have the technological tools to assist our children/students in virtual learning. I love teaching. It's always been my love and passion to work with children from all walks of life. I just think of all the little ones that like to give hugs and steal hugs. Some of them, like to touch, touch, and touch some more. At times or the majority of the time, these little ones express themselves through play. Therefore, I am not comfortable in sending them (Children and Staff) back into the classrooms. It's like a death march. And, we are going to wait for who's going to get shot in the front lines when we know in our hearts, it is preventable by using the tools that we already have at our disposal. But once a life is taken, it is never to return.

As we all know, COVID-19 is constantly mutating. We also have the deadly and contagious Brazilian Variant out there taking more lives with NO vaccine insight at this point in time. This mutating viruses have different affects on the physical and emotional well-being of each individual. Whether you are physically fit or not. I have lost young loved



ones to this virus besides the adults. My Daughter is a frontline worker. She works as a Laboratory Supervisor. She was the first in our family to get the virus. Through prayer and proper nutrition and exercise she made it. The fear and uncertainty is enough to kill a person. This is something we do not see. People that have not been exposed or know of individuals that have been exposed are at times ignorant. Some of them are asymptomatic, in which, is very deadly to people with underlying health conditions like myself along with the majority of the Navajo Nation's population.

I believe we need to continue to monitor schools that have reopened. Furthermore, I would feel more comfortable if our students/children get vaccinated for COVID-19, too. Since, it is still in the works, we should wait for reopening our schools on the Navajo Reservation.

If everything works out for the Navajo Nation Schools reopening plan, we should continue to monitor our COVID-19 positives and deaths. But, add COVID-19 student data collection for our Navajo Nation for our student population. The information should be provided with the regions within the Navajo Reservation focusing on schools that have high/low COVID-19 positives and deaths (May God forbid.).

Since, we have a high population of diabetes on the Navajo Nation. We need to include the Diabetes data stemming from our Navajo student population, too. We also have to continue to take into consideration our extended family household numbers. It only takes a droplet to get an individual sick. That one COVID-19 carrier can infect others.

Other matters to consider, too are our schools ventilation systems, restroom sizes, and classroom sizes. School students, parents, and staff need to be trained in dealing with this new form of classroom preparation and learning.

In conclusion, we are dealing with a deadly virus that continues to mutate and it is heartless in destroying lives and taking lives. I hope our Navajo Nation continues to wait on reopening through continues data collection in all avenues in dealing with this virus. I appreciate your time and cooperation, thank-you.

# Legislation No.0047-21

Lorlene Atencio <lorleneatencio693@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

I oppose reopening of schools until maybe next year but not now. Doing good with online from home. Thank you.

Lorlene Atencio

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

# Legislation No. 0047-21

Vanessa Mescal <vmescal07@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:12 PM

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

This legislation should not be passed.  
The schools my children attend are not fully prepared to receive children.  
HVAC systems are still being worked on.  
Classrooms are not prepared with barriers between students (plexi-glass).  
There is not enough sanitizing and cleaning supplies for the number of children to be in attendance.  
The school personnel have not shared any protocols to the parents as to how to safeguard our children.  
The schools are still in the process of putting guidelines in place.  
Please allow our children to complete their school through virtual learning.

We've lost too many of our relatives to this virus.  
Let's not subject our children to the virus too soon until we have safe guidelines and PPE in place.  
I recommend council members to visit or receive updated reports from schools within the Navajo Nation on how far along they are in preparing their school for children to return to school.

Thank you

VMescal

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# Mikesha Nez "Legislation No. 0047-21"

keishaa N <nzkeish@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:12 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

My name is Mikesha Nez and I am a mother of a five-year-old just starting Kindergarten this coming school year. I oppose Legislation No. 0047-21. I do not think students should return back to school until the pandemic clears. Especially the children who are currently unable to get the vaccine because it is not available to them. I do think that in-person learning should be available to students who were able to get their vaccines, but students under the age of 16 should be allowed to continue virtual learning until such time they can get vaccinated. Personally I do not trust that the individual's my son is being exposed to while at school are being mindful and could possibly expose my son to the virus. The school also cannot guarantee that the proper social distancing and mask mandates are being followed by all students and staff. I've lost family members and customers I've worked closely with to this virus and I don't plan on losing my only son because the school needs continued funding.

Thank You.

Mikesha Nez.

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## "Legislation No. 0047-21"

Evangeline Kesoli <ekesoli@sjsd.org>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:21 PM

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

Good morning,

My name is Evangeline Kesoli and I'm writing to you to put in my comment about Legislation No. 0047-21. I work at a local school here in Monument Valley, Utah and I am still very concerned about reopening the schools back up. I myself am a covid survivor and I was flown to another location away from the reservation to get medical care. Through the whole process of being covid sick, it has been the most terrifying experience in my life! My fear of not returning back to my family has affected me to the extreme because I'm a mother of 2. I don't ever want anyone to go through what I went through and/or lose a family member as others have. So let's keep up the good work we're doing to stay safe and keep our numbers down until it's safe to go back into schools. So at this time I won't agree to reopening the schools on the Navajo reservation. The way Covid affected our reservation is so devastating!! With our kids not getting vaccinated, it's a big risk. Also I just heard of a coworker's son that tested positive the other day, then I know it's not safe. Thank you for listening to my concern.

--

Vangie Kesoli

~Have a great day~

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

# LaTanya McCabe; Legistaltion No. 0047-21

latanya mccabe <lmccabe26@yahoo.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:21 PM

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

Hi My Name is LaTanya McCabe, Naasht'ezhi Tabaahi nishli doo Dzil t'aad Kinyaa'aanii ei bashishchiin, Shash Dine'e Kinyaa'aanii ei dah shicheii, doo Tsedeeshgishnii ei dah shinali. I am from White Mesa, which is near the community of Kaibeto, Az.

I'm writing to oppose the Legislation NO. 0047-21. Here are some reasons:

1. The CDC guidlines are still in a stage of studying the virus and there's still not cure for it thus far.
2. Our children are not vaccinated. It is too soon to open schools to our children.
3. Not everyone is vaccinated, yet it is still in the observation stage.
4. Schools are far along thin setting already, just finish the year this way.
5. Our school distributed laptops with hotspots for our students. They are still learning to learn in this setting but it's a college readiness skill for all children.
6. Alot of funds were allocated to support learning in this setting, it should be used all the way thru. Teachers are learning this new way, it's challenging but great to be more versatile in delivering instruction.
7. Our children may get the wrong idea and become comfortable which will make them vulnerable.

As a parent:

I have set ground rules and procedures for my family when we leave our home. I leave only once or twice a week, to run errands. SO returning to work i would have to leave from my home everyday and return to my kids not knowing if i may have became in contact with another employee or student with a virus. I'm the only parent in my household, and the only provider as well. We have been safe from the virus. I'd like to keep it that way until there is legit facts that we are ALL safe. Working from home has been tough, but we are almost done with the school year and pushing forward everyday, as long as we are all safe and everyone else too.

If we open schools, then Schools are going to be held liable for contracting the virus, even if it's noone's fault. It will be blamed on the school. In making this decision i hope that my concern is considered and hope that other's are saying the same thing.

I know as a teacher i should be rooting for kids going to school and bump up the test scores....not for me, there's more to a students than a statistic. We are DIne people and taking this into the holistic view, look at how it will change and affect everything else.

Respectfully,  
Ms. LaTanya McCabe

Being a teacher in my community safety and health precautions are taken seriously.

*LaTanya McCabe*  
*Have great day!*

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# NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL THE NAVAJO NATION

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NNAC-103-2021

**REAFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION: APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR .**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to IGRD-269-05, the Northern Agency Council is a recognized political subdivision of the Navajo Nation and has the authority to advocate and make appropriate recommendations on behalf of the 20 Northern Navajo Agency Chapters to the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State and local entities for appropriate action; and
2. The Northern Navajo Agency Council recognizes the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
3. The Northern Navajo Agency Council recognizes 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).
4. The Northern Navajo Agency Council understands that 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 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.
5. The Northern Navajo Agency Council membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number 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.
6. The Northern Navajo Agency Council recognizes that the Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, chapter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year.
7. The Northern Navajo Agency Council understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide.
8. The Northern Navajo Agency Council recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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.

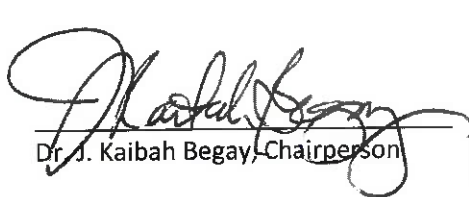
9. The Northern Navajo Agency Council supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of **Resolution CO-84-20**, "Opposing all in-person instruction at all schools intending to reopen within the Navajo Nation amidst COVID-19; supporting the Navajo Nation Board of Education in recommending virtual learning." **Resolution CO-84-20** is still in effect "(u)ntil the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities."
10. The Northern Navajo Agency Council supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at "0."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

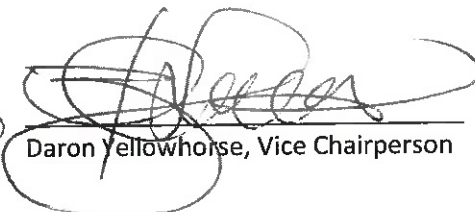
1. The Northern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required all schools located on the Navajo Nation, including Public Law 100-297 grant schools, Public Law 93-638 contract schools, Bureau of Indian Education-operated schools, public schools, (including charter schools), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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 Northern Navajo Agency Council supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting via teleconference at which a quorum was present. A motion was made by Harry Descheenie, Jr. and seconded by Ella Frazier and the same was passed by a vote of 49 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstained, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.



Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Chairperson



Daron Yellowhorse, Vice Chairperson



Matthew D. Tso, Secretary



## RESOLUTION OF THE SHIPROCK CHAPTER Shiprock, Navajo Nation



SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION: APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR .

### WHEREAS:

1. The **Shiprock** Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred on the Chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, B. Purpose which states "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Law, including custom and tradition" and the inclusivity provided by the Dine' Fundamental laws", and
2. The **Shiprock** Chapter recognizes the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
3. The **Shiprock** Chapter recognizes 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).
4. The **Shiprock** Chapter understands that 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 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.
5. The **Shiprock** Chapter membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number 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.
6. The **Shiprock** Chapter recognizes that the Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, chapter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year.
7. The **Shiprock** Chapter understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide.
8. The **Shiprock** Chapter recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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.

CHAPTER OFFICIALS  
Nevina D. Kinkhcheemy – President  
Debra A. Yazzie – Vice President  
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay – Secretary/Treasurer

GRAZING OFFICIAL  
Sarah Denetclaw-Begay  
President

FARM BOARD  
Beatrice Redfeather-Benally  
President

COUNCIL DELEGATE  
Eugenia Charles-Newton



## RESOLUTION OF THE SHIPROCK CHAPTER Shiprock, Navajo Nation



9. The **Shiprock** Chapter supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of **Resolution CO-84-20**, "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." **Resolution CO-84-20** is still in effect "(u)ntil the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities."
10. The **Shiprock** Chapter supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at "0."

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The **Shiprock** Chapter Elected Officials hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required 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), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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 **Shiprock** Chapter supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.

Motioned by: Debra A. Yazzie

Seconded by: Beatrice Redfeather

### CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and considered at a duly called Chapter meeting VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE (ZOOM) as per temporary guidance for all chapters issued by NNDOJ MEMO dated May 26, 2020 (due to COVID19 Pandemic) a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 04 in favor, 00 opposed and 01 abstentions on this 11th day of February, 2021.

Nevina D. Kinlahcheeny  
Nevina D. Kinlahcheeny, President

Debra A. Yazzie  
Debra A. Yazzie, Vice President

Dr. J. Kaibah Begay  
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

CHAPTER OFFICIALS  
Nevina D. Kinlahcheeny – President  
Debra A. Yazzie – Vice President  
Dr. J. Kaibah Begay – Secretary /Treasurer

GRAZING OFFICIAL  
Sarah Denetclaw-Begay  
President

FARM BOARD  
Beatrice Redfeather-Benally  
President

COUNCIL DELEGATE  
Eugenia Charles-Newton



The Navajo Nation  
Upper Fruitland Chapter  
N36/N562 Bldg 1 5006-001  
P.O. Box 1257  
Fruitland, New Mexico 87416  
Tel: (505) 960-5032/9811  
Fax: (505) 960-5033  
Email: [upperfruitland@navajochapters.org](mailto:upperfruitland@navajochapters.org)



Rickie Nez, Council Delegate  
Lynelle Etsitty, President  
Lisa Byrd, Vice-President  
Dora Smith, Secretary/Treasurer  
Albert Lee, Farm Board Representative  
Roxanne Lee, Grazing Representative

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION UPPER FRUITLAND CHAPTER**

**SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup>  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION:  
APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE  
VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE  
INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred on the Chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, B. Purpose which states "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Law, including custom and tradition" and the inclusivity provided by the Dine' Fundamental laws", and
2. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter recognizes the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3); and
3. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter recognizes 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); and
4. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter understands that 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 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; and
5. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number 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; and

## FRUI 2021-02-216

6. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter recognizes that 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 resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year; and
7. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide; and
8. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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; and
9. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of Resolution CO-84-20, "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." Resolution CO-84-20 is still in effect "(u)ntil the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities;" and
10. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at "0."

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The *Upper Fruitland* Chapter membership hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required 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), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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 *Upper Fruitland* Chapter supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.

### CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing resolution was approved by the authorized quorum of Upper Fruitland Chapter at a duly called teleconference/video meeting held for Upper Fruitland Chapter

**FRUI 2021-02-216**

(Navajo Nation), N.M., during COVID-19 pandemic. A motion to approve was made by Alvis Kee and seconded by Lisa Byrd and the same was passed by a vote 04 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained, this 9th day of February, 2021.

  
Lynelle C. Etsitty (Feb 10, 2021 15:08 MST)

Lynelle Etsitty, President

  
Dora Smith (Feb 10, 2021 15:38 MST)

Dora Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

  
Lisa Byrd (Feb 10, 2021 15:29 MST)

Lisa Byrd, Vice-President

  
Rickie Nez (Feb 10, 2021 21:02 MST)

Rickie Nez, Council Delegate

# TIIS TSOH SIKAAD CHAPTER

Post Office 7359  
Newcomb, New Mexico 87455  
505-696-5470 (Telephone)  
505-696-5473 (Fax)  
[tiistsohsikaad@navajochapter.org](mailto:tiistsohsikaad@navajochapter.org)



Leon Spencer, President  
Edison Smith, Vice-President  
Clara A. Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tanner J. Begaye, Grazing Member  
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate

## RESOLUTION OF TIIS TSOH SIKAAD CHAPTER TTS-RES- 21-02-018

### SUPPORTING RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO DR. KAIBAB FROM SHIPROCK TO CONTINUED VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR OUR CHILDREN

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter is a certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation (NN) pursuant to Navajo Tribal Council CAP-34-98 and is delegated authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Nation Law, including custom, tradition, and fiscal matters; AND
2. Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter pursuant to 2 N.N.C. Section 4028 (A), is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and make appropriate actions, AND
3. The Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter recognizes this highly contagious COVID-19 still affecting people, and families are continuing to stay home to stay safe following the Emergency Stay at Home order through the Navajo Nation and the State of NM.
4. Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter supports Dr. Kaibab to continue to keep our children on virtual learning option to keep our children safe.

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter hereby supports the continued virtual education learning for our children.

We hereby certify that foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called regular Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter of the Navajo Nation, (New Mexico), at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained on the 10 day of February 2021.

Motioned: Tanner Begaye

  
Leon Spencer, Chapter President

  
Clara Pierce, Chapter Secretary/Treasure

Second: Edison Smith

  
Edison Smith, Chapter Vice-President



# TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 1288, TSE DAA K'AAN, NEW MEXICO 87420

T: (505) 368-1599 • F: (505) 368-1598 • E: tsedaakaan@navajochapters.org



TDK 2102-0103

APPROVING THE REQUEST OF SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION: APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

## WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, (LGA), 26 N.N.C. §3 and Navajo Nation Council Resolution CAP-32-78, the Tse Dáá K'áán Community Chapter, (Chapter) is a duly certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government as listed at 11 N.N.C. Part 1 Section 10, and Local Governance Certified as of June 21, 2007 per TCDCJN-16-07; AND
2. Pursuant to the LGA, 26 N.N.C. §103, (A) and §103(B), the chapter is recognized as a local government entity and delegated certain authorities and responsibilities with respect to making decisions over local matters consistent with Navajo Nation law and had the authority enact upon 26 N.N.C. §103 et seq.; AND
3. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 4028(a), the chapter has the authority to review all matters affecting the community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Private, County, and State Government agencies; AND
4. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter knows the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
5. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter knows 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).
6. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter understands that 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 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.
7. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number 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.
8. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter recognizes that the Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, chapter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year.

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## TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

Robert Lapahie, Jr., President • Matthew D. Tso, Vice President • Laura J. Benally, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate • Lavone Gamenez, Farm Board • Kenneth Johnson, Grazing Representative  
Anita Hayes, Chapter Manager

# **TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT**

**POST OFFICE BOX 1288, TSE DAA K'AAN, NEW MEXICO 87420**

**T: (505) 368-1599 • F: (505) 368-1598 • E: tsedaakaan@navajochapters.org**



9. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide.
10. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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.
11. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of Resolution CO-84-20, "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." Resolution CO-84-20 is still in effect "(u)ntil the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities."
12. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at "0."

## **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 4028(a), the chapter has the authority to review all matters affecting the community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Private, County, and State Government agencies; AND
2. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter membership hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required 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), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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.
3. The Tse Daa K'áan Chapter supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.

---

### **TSE DAA K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT**

**Robert Lapahie, Jr., President • Matthew D. Tso, Vice President • Laura J. Benally, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate • Lavona Gamenez, Farm Board • Kenneth Johnson, Grazing Representative  
Anita Hayes, Chapter Manager**

# TSE DÁÁ K'ÁÁN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 1288, TSE DAA K'AAN, NEW MEXICO 87420

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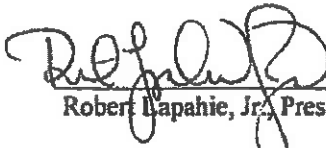
## CERTIFICATION

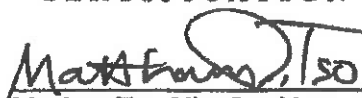
We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and considered by the Tse Daa K'aan Community Chapter at a duly called Tse Daa K'aan (Navajo Nation) New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 08 in favor, 00 opposed and 01 abstentions on this 14th day of February.

Motion by: Lavone Gamenez

Second by: Laura J. Benally

## CERTIFICATION

  
Robert Lapahie, Jr., President

  
Matthew Tso, Vice President

  
Laura J. Benally, Secretary/Treas

TSE DAA K'AAAN CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

Robert Lapahie, Jr., President • Matthew D. Tso, Vice President • Laura J. Benally, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate • Lavone Gamenez, Farm Board • Kenneth Johnson, Grazing Representative  
Anita Hayes, Chapter Manager



## TOADLENA / TWO GREY HILLS CHAPTER

P.O. Box 7894, Newcomb, New Mexico 87455 • Phone 505-789-3100 • Fax 505-789-3101

"HOME OF THE FAMOUS TWO GREY HILLS RUGS"

### RESOLUTION

TDLA/TGH-21-02-09-17

SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION: APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

#### WHEREAS:

1. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred on the Chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, B. Purpose which states "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Law, including custom and tradition" and the inclusivity provided by the Dine' Fundamental laws", and
2. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter recognizes the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3).
3. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter recognizes 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).
4. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter understands that 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 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.
5. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number of people, which has spread.

Kerby Johnson  
President



Andrew Deachenie  
Vice-President



Leonarda Eldridge  
Secretary / Treasurer



Derry Lewis  
Grazing Officer



Amber K. Crotty  
Council Delegate

6. 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.
7. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter recognizes that the Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, chapter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year.
8. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide.
9. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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.
10. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of Resolution CO-84-20, "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." Resolution CO-84-20 is still in effect "(u)ntil the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities."
11. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at: "0."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter membership hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required 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, (ncluding charter schools), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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 *Toadlena/Two Grey Hills* Chapter supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.

### CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and considered at a duly called Chapter meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstentions on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February

Motioned by: Andrew Deschenie

Seconded by: Leonarda Eldridge

Kerby Johnson  
Kerby Johnson, President

Andrew Deschenie  
Andrew Deschenie, Vice-President

Leonarda Eldridge  
Leonarda Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

Derry Lewis  
Derry Lewis, Grazing Officer





# SAN JUAN CHAPTER

*Rickie Nez  
Council Delegate*

*Sam Bee  
President*

*Shawn Mike  
Vice President*

*Andrey Nez  
Secretary/Treasurer*

*Harrison Chy  
Farm Board Member*

*Keith Tso  
Cattle Member*

## RESOLUTION OF SAN JUAN CHAPTER

**SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE RELATED TO EDUCATION BY THE 24TH  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION:  
APPROVING AND REQUIRING THAT ALL NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS PROVIDE  
VIRTUAL OR ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS ONLY, WITH NO FACE TO FACE  
INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

**WHEREAS:**

1. San Juan Chapter is a duly certified Chapter under the Navajo Nation Government pursuant to Resolution No. CD-86-82 and pursuant to 26 NNC § 103 and they are delegated and authorized to review all matters affecting its community people; and
2. San Juan Chapter recognizes the Navajo Nation Board of Education (hereinafter the "Board") is the education agent in the Executive Branch for the purpose 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 (hereafter the "Department"). 10 N.N.C. §106 (G)(3); and
3. San Juan Chapter recognizes 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); and
4. San Juan Chapter understands that 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 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; and
5. San Juan Chapter membership understand that the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") is a global infecting substantial number 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; and
6. San Juan Chapter recognizes that the Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, chapter, and private) and the need for a consistent,



coherent, actionable and fully resources plan to support every school district reopening during the 2020-2021 academic year; and

7. San Juan Chapter understand that the schools should be guided by the latest health information from the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Health Command Operations Center, and the Center for Disease Control and supplemented to the extend the Best Practice Guidance document and the Re-opening Status Schedule go beyond what those plans provide; and
8. San Juan Chapter recognizes that the Navajo Nation's school re-opening 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; and
9. San Juan Chapter supports the October 20, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council approval of Resolution CO-84-20, "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." Resolution CO-84-20 is still in effect until the complete safety of all Navajo children can be assured by the federal and state governments, the Navajo Nation support virtual learning for all schools located on the Navajo Nation with an exception for limited target populations such as students with disabilities."; and
10. San Juan Chapter supports the COVID-19 data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Navajo Nation's coordinated health command, the gating criteria to safely reopen schools presently remains at "0."


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. San Juan Chapter membership hereby supports the Navajo Nation Board of Education that approved and required 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), private schools, parochial schools, higher educational institutions, early childhood programs including CCDF, Head Start, FACE Programs, and all other 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. San Juan Chapter supports the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-84-20 and Navajo Nation Board of Education directive and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any action deemed as necessary and proper to carry out the safety of our students and staff.


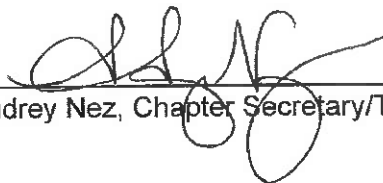
**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting at San Juan Chapter (New Mexico) Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present that the same was passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

Motion by: Sylvia McKinley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Bee, Chapter President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rickie Nez, Council Delegate

Second by: Clarence Cly

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sophina Tyler, Chapter Vice-President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Audrey Nez, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

# Reopening schools

jolene yazzie <yazziej52@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:39 PM

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

As a parent I am thinking elementary should go back to school, and students with disabilities/accommodations. Because these are the ones needing most help and needing one one-in one help.

High school students perhaps stay virtual except seniors because it's critical they graduate by May. Alternative schools in high school stay open to have student work online within schools with distancing of 3' apart as set by CDC.

My comment:

Thank you.

Sanders elementary is open now and kids doing well for a week now.

Sent from my iPhone

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## Public comments

Nelson, Leona Y <Leona.Nelson@bie.edu>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:40 PM

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

I think we should start school until August. My reason is that we need to sure all protocol are in place on campus. For all students and staff safety return.

Leona Nelson

Legislation No. 0047-21

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

SkinnyBones 28 <skinnyfoster.23@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:41 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

I believe that all schools should remain closed for the remainder of the school year. Right now we are barely looking at low numbers and it has not even been for more than 15 consecutive days. We have many of our Navajo students that stay with their grandparents. Then there are also no vaccinations for children. Although the teachers have received their vaccinations there are still many that are elderly and have certain health risks. Even for me myself I am an asthmatic patient and as well as my child.

Have the hospitals in the agency that they are located in visited the schools to ensure that there are safety measures in place? Are there dividers, are there hand sanitizing stations, are there reliable temperature scanners, are the parents honest with communicating with the school about their child, are the desks at 6ft apart, are there wipes available for months at a time. There are many different guidelines that need to be met according to CDC guidelines, are they all met. Do all the schools have a safety plan that was shared with the parents and health officials in the area? Is there proper ventilation in place in the schools that can keep a well-ventilated area? Are the schools going to stick with only a few students in the classroom? As of right now most of the schools are lacking these basic needs and are not communicating with the parents the ins and outs of returning to in-person learning. Most schools are requiring parents to sign a waiver that states that "if a child should be sick or even death" the school shall not be responsible and the party responsible will be the parents.

We need to be sure that our cases have been down less than 10 for at least a month. According to the town hall that was delivered yesterday there are now different variants within the state of Arizona. There were mentions of the Brazilian Variant, South African Variant, and UK Variant. Although children are most likely to not be affected to the full extent what if they take the virus home to their families. Then we are looking at more outbreaks within the reservations.

According to the Az Governor if the Navajo Nation decides to keep schools they will honor it. We as a tribe our best interest is to protect our elderly and children. Although it is difficult we need to remain closed and until the beginning of the next school year 2021-2022.

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## Legislation No 0047

RezBaller#34 <txt34babygirl@yahoo.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:41 PM

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

Regarding the NN reopening up schools i have stated my opinion. I Audreann Wauneka parent of \_\_\_\_\_ who is attending Kindergarten at \_\_\_\_\_ in Red Valley,AZ, has an opinion that going back to school in my view is still not a good idea. I worry for my child's health an her safety, I don't allow her to visit just anyone when she wants an due to covid we have maintain a safe sanitary home where everyone in the household knows how to care for one another. In person schooling would be an anxiety for some parents maybe but definitely me....I still think they should be in virtual school. Thank you for taking my opinion in consideration.

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## Legislation No. 0047-21: comment

Marsha Tracy <marshad94@yahoo.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 4:46 PM

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

I would like to address my concern as a parent and as an educator. I believe that we should continue virtual learning to continue to protect our children of the Navajo Nation. It is still to soon to have them attend in school instruction. We have been impacted by the loss of family members along with community members in the Navajo Nation. We should continue to take precautionary measures to avoid covid spread longer.

Please take my request into consideration to protect our people.

ASHOODI

MARSHA TRACY

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## Legislation No. 0047-21

Nita Hogue <nita.hogue@outlook.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

I think it's still too early to re-open schools. My daughter is still uncomfortable with sending her son back to school. We don't know if it is safe yet? The big issue would be social distancing students won't really abide by the rules.

Nita Hogue

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# Schools reopening

Aaron Simonson <asimonson1970@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

As a parent I do not want in person instruction for my children, because its not over. We don't know where other parents go and can't tell if some these children have the COVID. I am not letting my children back to in person instruction until another year. Just because people got vaccinated doesn't mean that we are going to back to how it was before the pandemic. We need to take this serious and be more considerate. Our children are precious.

Aaron Simonson

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# School Reopening

Lenora Simonson <lynorasimonson358@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

To President Jonathan Nez, as a parent and school employee I don't see why the schools are going to open back up too soon. As for me I am not having my children go back to in person instruction because we really don't know if some of children have COVID-19 and some parents and employees are careless just because they got the vaccine I am going to give it another year for my children to even go back to in person instruction. I care and my children are precious to me. I don't want to put them in danger and will do everything I can to keep up with their schoolwork even though sometimes it's a struggle. Having them home is much safer. We can't just put them back out there just because people got vaccinated. So please be more mindful.

Thanks for hearing me out.

Lenora Simonson

Sent from my iPhone

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Gilmore, Tennell L. (TCRHCC) <Tennell.Gilmore@TCHEALTH.ORG>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I have one child in kindergarten at Tuba City Boarding School. Last school year, my son was in the developmental kindergarten program and was sick nearly every other month with colds and coughs. I have family members who are highly vulnerable due to advanced age and preexisting health conditions and I do not want to potentially expose them to the virus if my son returns to in-person school. They are vaccinated but I do not want to take that risk. At this point the school year is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  over and I think schools should continue to be virtual until the end of the school year. I can see this being a major change for teachers as well and the transition may take away from the progress that is being made with virtual schooling. By the time teachers and students have adjusted, the school year will be over.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

*Thanks,  
Tennell Gilmore*

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# Legislation No. 0047-21

Selvina Platero <splatero64@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

Hello my name is Lucia Perry from Crownpoint and I wanted to comment on this legislation. In my opinion I think that the kids should stay online for the rest of the school year because this virus is going down yes but you don't know if the parents or kids 16 years and older are vaccinated, they could still be going places and not following the CDC guidelines. Some parents don't believe in the vaccine and don't want to get the vaccine. I feel like the online school works best. I have two grandchildren that go to school at Wingate High they are currently online and don't have any issues. The school has a good setup if they are unable to turn in their homework online they can turn it in to a staff from Wingate that comes to Bashes and they also bring lunch. You never know what's going to happen because at one point the cases were decreasing then it started to spike out of nowhere. I appreciate everything the Navajo Nation President and Vice President is doing, they are taking it slow and that's the only way to do it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Lucia Perry

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# RE: Reopening of Schools on Navajo

Marie Morales <marie.morales1@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

Dear Madame/Sir,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a public comment regarding the reopening of schools on the Navajo Nation. First, a huge thank you to our Navajo Tribal President for closing schools during the months the pandemic was rampant throughout Navajoland and America. I am grateful for the importance of keeping our people safe at all cost.

I am a school administrator, I supervised 52 personnel who are Teachers and Teacher Assistants. My staff have endured a great deal of stress and emotional toll as we contemplate whether our school will return to brick and mortar school. I believe it would be better if we continue to delay the reopening of our schools until Fall 2021. The roller coaster of decision making of opening or keeping schools closed with the near future uncertain due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus is exasperating for our school staff and parents. There are still so many unanswered questions and with the COVID-19 virus particularly detrimental for our Native people and people of color, wouldn't it be better to re-open schools on Navajoland when we are totally out in the clear.

Presently, our staff has a lot of concern for their students and themselves. Many of my teachers have compromising health concerns whether they are young or older, they are cancer survivors, diabetic, or oversee the care of their elderly parents within their home, etc. Many of our students' households have multi-generational family members and without the children being adequately vaccinated this is a concern.

Therefore, I would be of the opinion that the Navajo Nation should delay the reopening of school until Fall 2021. Our staff, students and parents have endured losses and heartbreaks beyond anything imaginable, yet, they continue to educate despite the limitation. Thank you.

Marie Morales, Department Head  
Tuba City Boarding School

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# Genice West Legislation No. 0047-21

Genice West <genice.r.west@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

I feel that it would be a little early to send my kids back to school. They should wait until August to send them back to in person schooling. I do not want my kids to catch the virus from another student and bring it home to us and their grandparents. They are always at grandmas and grandpas. Also I would prefer that my kids get vaccinated before going back into a classroom setting. WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.



# Legislation No. 0047-21

R-Lean So-c <r\_leanso\_c@hotmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

My name is Arlene Tsosie,

**Ta'neezahnii** nish[9, **T0'aheedli7nii** b1shishch77n, **T0tsohnii** dashicheii, **N1t'oh Dine'4 T1chiinii** dashin117. I'm a mother, grandmother, and a teacher. I strongly believe we should continue online (distance learning) learning. As a teacher, I am not ready for our children. A lot of these children loss their love ones to COVID-19. I was never trained on how to deal with children losing their love ones. We are still trying to cope with our losses. Where's all the teacher trainings, we need training before we get our students back. We have been given all these hoops to jumps through in teaching. We need our leaders to help us. These children need help with their social and emotional beings. We cannot start teaching our students on day one back in school. On a regular school starting, it takes a good 2 to 3 weeks to get our students settled in for school, some behavior issues take longer. This is the reason why I support virtual learning for the remainder of the 8 weeks of school. Think of your children and mostly, think of your teachers. We (teachers) have worked so hard to get to where we are today without a lot of training in virtual learning.

T'11 sh--d7 , Stay Virtual the rest of the school year.

Ahx4hee', Thank you, Ms. Tsosie

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# Gail Begay Legislation No. 0047-21

Gail Begay <gailnikkibegay2015@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:11 PM

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

It is not safe for the students to return to school. It's too soon. We need to wait until they are vaccinated.

Gail Begay

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Re: legislation no 0047-21

Andrea Billy <aydencpeters0531@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:21 PM

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

To whom mat it concern;

I am writing this letter in regards to re- opening of school within the navajo nation. I believe as a parent, until all ages are vaccinated, then that should be an option for reopening schools, and having them become successful. But as of right now, with new variants aboard, its scary to even think about having our children attend school, and exchanging of germs, you can not keep children 6 feet away, if schools decide to re open, what is the guarantee that my child will not come home with this virus. So in the mean time, we need to keep our gaurd up and keep our future generation safe,until they are fully vaccinated. My children have been doing good with thier home school, beacuse I am there to watch over them and make sure thier work is being done. But I believe that its up to parents to make that decision, and do what is best for our children. This is my thoughts for reopening schools on the reservation.

Thank you

Andrea Billy

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# Legislation No.0047--21

Belinda Badonie <bbadonie25@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 5:21 PM

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

I would like to voice my concern for reopening of schools on the reservation. I have two children that go to Tuba City Boarding School. I also work with the students as a teacher. I think it's too soon to let students go back into the classroom. My two children are not vaccinated and I do not intend to send them back to school. I fear for them and also as a parent, I do not wish this virus upon them or any other children. If children are sent back into the classroom, I believe that no normal instruction will be in place. As a teacher, I know that we will be more worried about students keeping their masks on, keeping their distance from other students and keeping their hands clean at all times. We as teachers know how it is even on a normal learning environment. If you have never been in the classroom for 7 hrs a day, you don't know how it is. Us teachers deal with a lot. Not all students are the same. Some will listen and some will not. Teachers will not be teaching but more concerned about the students safety. Students will not learn like they used to back in February 2020. What is the rush to go back in? Students need their vaccines first before going back in. Going back into the classroom in August is probably better and hopefully there will be a vaccine for them. Thank you for reading.

Belinda Badonie



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

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## Classroom news

V Humm <veehummingbird@gmail.com>

Thu 3/25/2021 11:14 PM

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

1 attachments (97 KB)

FUSD classroom quarantined after individual tests positive for COVID-19 \_ Education \_ azdailysun.com.pdf;

FYI

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[https://azdailysun.com/news/local/education/fusd-classroom-quarantined-after-individual-tests-positive-for-covid-19/article\\_70990368-a50c-5f5b-9cc0-886dcab575b7.html](https://azdailysun.com/news/local/education/fusd-classroom-quarantined-after-individual-tests-positive-for-covid-19/article_70990368-a50c-5f5b-9cc0-886dcab575b7.html)

ALERT TOP STORY

## FUSD classroom quarantined after individual tests positive for COVID-19

BRADY WHEELER Sun Staff Reporter  
Mar 25, 2021

**L**ess than a week after Marshall Elementary School reopened in-person learning on Monday, a classroom is returning to remote instruction due to exposure to COVID-19.

School officials said an individual at Marshall Elementary in Flagstaff has tested positive for the coronavirus and had direct contact with one classroom. That classroom will be taught remotely for two weeks, a time frame consistent with the Flagstaff Unified School District quarantine protocols.

The positive individual is already isolating at home, FUSD Chief Health Administrator McKenzie Bevirt said. The district did not release additional public information such as the classroom's grade level or whether the individual was a student at the school.

FUSD health officials were able to identify several points of contact with the virus and have notified those who might have been exposed. FUSD recommends that individuals notified of a potential exposure undergo a two-week self-quarantine period.

FUSD's quarantine protocol allows for individuals to be released early if certain criteria are met, such as testing negative for the coronavirus after six days of isolation without showing any symptoms, Bevirt said.

Coconino County Health and Human Services was notified about the case by the district, and it will assist with both contact tracing and providing additional quarantine information to those who were in direct contact.

“The county’s contact tracing team gets in contact with the family as well and provides them additional information about quarantine and exposures, and then they will conduct a secondary disease investigation with that family to get them resources they need and get them the guidelines for isolation,” Bevirt said.

A cleaning team is currently in the process of sanitizing the affected classroom, said Zachery Fountain, FUSD communications director. Other areas of the school, such as nearby classrooms, should not be interrupted by the cleaning process.

When Can Kids and Teens Begin Receiving the COVID-19 Vacci...

“We have a process in which we close off the room, and it is isolated from staff and also student use. The doors are locked and only accessible by maintenance crews for thorough cleaning,” Fountain said.

Following last week’s spring break, a significant portion of the district's student population was allowed to return to in-person learning on Monday. FUSD plans to operate its schools five days a week for the remainder of the semester.

This week's returnees included students in kindergarten, first, second, third, sixth, ninth and 12th grades, and students in specialized programs. The remaining student body is scheduled to return to the classroom Monday.



Students attending in-person class are required to follow certain COVID-19 mitigation protocols, such as wearing a face mask and maintaining physical distance. School staff have also been trained to monitor their student's symptoms, district officials said.

**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>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	1.) Geraldine Benally

***V. Rednurse***  
 Legislative Tracking Secretary  
 Office of Legislative Services  
***April 15, 2021 4:02pm***  
 Date/Time

LEGISLATION NO: \_0047-21\_\_

G Benally <gbenally2013@gmail.com>

Wed 4/14/2021 3:38 PM

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

I would sincerely appreciate the Council's support on this bill. While some people may indicate that vaccinations will safeguard teachers, staff, children and parents, along with other protective measures, there is no guarantee our people will be safe. We have been told there are different strains that have been discovered and the vaccinations effectiveness against the strains have not been assured. In addition to this, the effectiveness of the vaccines are not 100%. We would be doing a grave disservice to the people by prematurely declaring the Navajo Nation is safe to resume business as usual in any setting.

Thank you for the time.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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