

## 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.

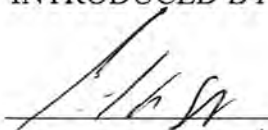
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

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"), ~~the~~ and World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations located within the United States and regionally.
5. The Board maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic ~~has-highlighted~~ the importance of our multiple school systems (Bureau of Indian Education-funded, public, charter, private) and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resourced plan to support every school and school district reopening during the 2020-21 academic year.

#### NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

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

**CERTIFICATION**

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



Priscilla B. Manuelito, President  
Navajo Nation Board of Education





Jonathan Nez  
President

## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

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



Myron Lizer  
Vice-President

NNBESE-666-2020

### RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

#### WHEREAS:

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

#### NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

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

**CERTIFICATION**

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



Priscilla B. Manuelito, President  
Navajo Nation Board of Education

# NAVAJO NATION

546

Navajo Nation Council 2020 Fall Session

10/22/2020

02:52:50 PM

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

Yeas : 23

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

## Yea : 23

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

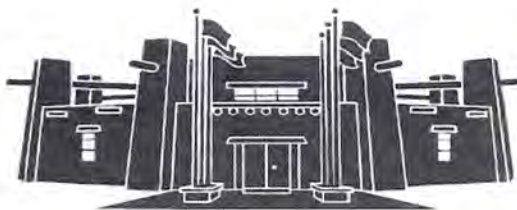
## Nay : 0

## Excused : 0

## Not Voting : 0


Presiding Speaker: Damon





## MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Carl Slater, Delegate  
Navajo Nation Council

From :   
Ron Haven, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : March 12, 2021

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

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

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

OLC # 21-101-1

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0047-21\_\_

SPONSOR: Carl Slater

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

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

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

Written comments may be mailed to:

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

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

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

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

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0047-21**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Carl R. Slater**

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

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

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

**Digital Comments received:**

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



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

03/23/21      10:26 AM  
Date/Time

# Arronda White: Legislation No.0047-21

Arronda White <arrwhite\_8@yahoo.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:31 AM

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

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

Thank You,

sincerely

Arronda White

Ft Wingate Elementary parent

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

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

Javy Atcitty <jatcitty@navajoprep.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 8:32 AM

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

Hello,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Javy Atcitty

Class of 2021

Navajo Preparatory School

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



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

comments

Tue 3/23/2021 9:21 AM

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

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

March 12, 2021  
To Whom It May Concern;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Savannah Begay-Legislation #0047-21

Savannah Begay <sbegay\_86@hotmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 3:57 PM

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

Good afternoon,

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

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

Thank you,

Savannah Begay

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# Fw: Legislation 0046-21 & 0047-21

comments

Tue 3/23/2021 9:24 AM

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

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

**To:** comments

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

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

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

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opposing 0047-21

DonnaLeigh Dedman <donali\_arviso@hotmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 6:57 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DonnaLeigh??Dedman??

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

?? --Albert Schweitzer

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# Reopening schools

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

Tue 3/23/2021 8:29 AM

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

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

My name is Jennifer Begay

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

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# school reopening plan

Terra Begay <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 our 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 bringing back to us. Give us parents an option to do online learning as well. If some parents want there 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 end 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

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Mary M. Begay

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

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