

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23<sup>RD</sup> Navajo Nation Council - Third Year, 2017

AN ACT

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S FUNDING REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000) FOR THE OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 701 (A)(4), 701(A)(6) (2015); CO-45-12.
- B. Statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. See 2 N.N.C. § 100 (W).
- C. The Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-244, requires the Arizona Department of Education (Department) to establish an Office of Indian Education (OIE), funding request attached as **Exhibit A**.
- D. The duties of OIE is to:
  - 1. Provide technical assistance to schools and Indian nations to develop a culturally appropriate curricula and instructional materials;
  - 2. Provide technical assistance to schools and Indian Nations to meet the educational needs of Native American pupils;
  - 3. Provide technical assistance to schools and Indian nations in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of curricula that are culturally relevant and aligned to state standards; and
  - 4. Submit an annual statewide Native American education status report to all Indian nations in the state.

See **Exhibit A**.

- E. The justification for the funding request states, "Native American students are in need of additional support that the Department has

been unable to provide in the past . . . The Department does not receive support for the OIE from the general fund, and the OIE, in order to meet its statutory mandate, is only staffed by a single individual." See **Exhibit A**.

F. Additionally, "[t]he Department believes that by appropriating [the] requested funds and affording it the ability to "hire appropriate personnel," as A.R.S. § 15-244 requires, these historically underserved students will finally be given a chance to succeed." See **Exhibit A**.

G. The Navajo Nation supports the Arizona Department of Education's funding request in the amount of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the Office of Indian Education.

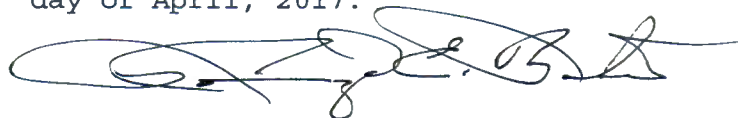
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the Arizona Department of Education's funding request in the amount of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the Office of Indian Education, attached as **Exhibit A**.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, the Navajo Nation Chief Justice and their designees, to support the Arizona Department of Education's funding request in the amount of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the Office of Indian Education.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23rd 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 16 in favor and 0 oppose, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.



Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Seth Damon  
Second: Honorable Benjamin Bennett

(15)

**23rd Navajo Nation Council**  
**Naabik'iyati' Committee**

DATE: April 6, 2017

Legislation 0092-17 (Main Motion)

Motion: Seth Damon

Second: Benjamin Bennett

**ALL DELEGATES:**

	Yea	Nay
BATES, LoRenzo		
BEGAY, Kee Allen Jr.		
BEGAY, Norman M.		
BEGAYE, Nelson	✓	
BENNETT, Benjamin L.	✓	
BROWN, Nathaniel	✓	
CHEE, Tom T.	✓	
CROTTY, Amber K.	✓	
DAMON, Seth	✓	
DANIELS, Herman	✓	
FILFRED, Davis		
HALE, Jonathan L.	✓	
JACK, Lee Sr.	✓	
PERRY, Jonathan	✓	
PETE, Leonard H.		
PHELPS, Walter	✓	
SHEPHERD, Alton Joe		
SLIM, Tuchoney Jr.	✓	
SMITH, Raymond Jr.		
TSO, Otto		
TSOSIE, Leonard	✓	
WITHERSPOON, Dwight	✓	
YAZZIE, Edmund	✓	
YAZZIE, Peterson	✓	

**BY COMMITTEE:**

	Yea	Nay	TOTAL
<b>BFC:</b>			
CHEE, Tom T.			
DAMON, Seth			
JACK, Lee Sr.			
SLIM, Tuchoney Jr.			
WITHERSPOON, Dwight			
TSOSIE, Leonard			
<b>HEHSC:</b>			
BEGAY, Norman M.			
BEGAYE, Nelson			
BROWN, Nathaniel			
CROTTY, Amber K.			
HALE, Jonathan L.			
YAZZIE, Peterson			
<b>LOC:</b>			
BEGAY, Kee Allen Jr.			
DANIELS, Herman			
SMITH, Raymond Jr.			
TSO, Otto			
YAZZIE, Edmund			
<b>RDC:</b>			
BENNETT, Benjamin L.			
FILFRED, Davis			
PERRY, Jonathan			
PETE, Leonard H.			
PHELPS, Walter			
SHEPHERD, Alton Joe			
<b>SPEAKER:</b>			
BATES, LoRenzo			
(Votes only in a tie)			

GRAND TOTAL

16 0

**CERTIFICATION:**



Honorable LoRenzo Bates  
 Speaker



Arizona Department of Education

## Funding Request #5 Office of Indian Education

### Request

The Arizona Department of Education (the Department) requests \$400,000 annually, beginning in FY18, for 4.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, to support the Office of Indian Education and fulfill its statutory mandates.

### Background

A.R.S. § 15-244, requires the Department to establish an Office of Indian Education (OIE) which, in addition to other duties, must:

- "Provide technical assistance to schools and Indian nations to develop culturally appropriate curricula and instructional materials";
- "...[P]rovide technical assistance to schools and Indian nations to meet the educational needs of native American pupils"; and
- "Provide technical assistance to schools and Indian nations in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of curricula that are culturally relevant and aligned to state standards."
- "...[S]ubmit an annual statewide native American education status report to all Indian nations in this state."

### Justification

Arizona is home to 22 native tribes, numbering approximately 300,000 people, and is the third-largest native population in the United States, with communities spread throughout nearly 113,998 square miles. Almost 16% of the nation's Native American student population attends an Arizona public school<sup>1</sup>. Native American students comprise nearly 5% of the total Arizona student population with a large percentage of students (78%) attending schools on rural tribal lands. With most tribal land located hours away from Maricopa County, it is nearly impossible for the sole OIE FTE to provide technical support to high-density native populations.

Native American students are in need of additional support that the Department has been unable to provide in the past. Arizona's Native American students in low density schools have the lowest graduation rate and the second lowest graduation rate in high density schools out of other races and ethnicities<sup>2</sup>. Native Americans also have the lowest reading proficiency scores out of other races and ethnicities in both high and low density schools<sup>3</sup>. Native American children are falling behind; they are not growing educationally at the same average rate as their peers. Native American children are sitting next to their peers in the same classes and not achieving the same outcomes, because they face other challenges that must be addressed by staff that understand their unique needs. Even more disconcerting is the fact that, nationwide, Native American teens and young adults kill themselves at more than double the rate of other young Americans and have the highest suicide rate of any population group in the United States<sup>4</sup>.

The Department does not receive support for the OIE from the general fund, and the OIE, in order to meet its statutory mandate, is only staffed by one single individual. The Department believes that by appropriating these

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.azed.gov/indian-education/files/2013/04/native\\_american\\_education\\_2012-official.pdf](http://www.azed.gov/indian-education/files/2013/04/native_american_education_2012-official.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> A high-density school is defined as a school that enrolled at least 25% Native American students. Schools with a Native American enrollment of less than 25% are labeled low-density schools.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ucai.org/about-tribes/demographics>



Arizona Department of Education

requested funds and affording it the ability to "hire appropriate personnel," as A.R.S. § 15-244 requires, these historically underserved students will finally be given a fair chance to succeed.

**Operation Cost**

FTEs:	4.0 FTE
PERSONAL SERVICES:	\$266,300
ERE:	\$93,200
PROFESSIONAL & OUTSIDE SERVICES:	\$3,000
TRAVEL:	\$10,000
OPERATING:	\$27,500
DEVELOPMENT COSTS:	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>