

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2022

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING ARIZONA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE BY VOTE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, K-12, TO EXCEED THE AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AS REQUIRED BY THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION FOR ONE-YEAR

WHEREAS:

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to represent the Navajo Nation at local, state, and federal levels in actions affecting health, environmental health, social services, education, veteran services, employment, training and labor. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(7).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation; and to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, state legislatures and departments and county and local governments. N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6) and (8).
- C. In 1980, the Arizona Constitution was amended and imposed limitations on school districts to limit its expenditure on an aggregate system. Generally, allowable budgeted expenditures are based on changes in student population and inflation. The aggregate expenditure limit for school districts to increase/decrease is based on data from the previous year.
- D. During the 2020-2021 school year, student enrollment in public schools (K-12) dropped significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, school districts in Arizona have a lower spending limit during the FY2022 school year.
- E. The Navajo Nation understands that the aggregate expenditure limit can be exceeded pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-911 which requires on or before March 1, the legislature, by two-thirds majority of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, approve action to exceed the Arizona Constitutional limitation.

- F. If the Arizona legislature does not authorize to exceed the limitation, then, school districts will inherit negative economic impacts such as budget cuts to school programs, services, and employees. The total amount exceeds \$1.1 billion that schools will be unable to spend.
- G. The Navajo Nation will be negatively impacted because fourteen (14) public schools, K-12, are on or near the Navajo Nation where most Navajo students attend, and where Navajo families are employed. More than \$37 million is at stake for the fourteen (14) public school districts if the Arizona legislature does not act to approve for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation imposed by the Arizona Constitution. See **Exhibit A** (School Districts and Projected Cuts).
- H. The Chinle Unified School District No. 24 is in Chinle, Navajo Nation (Arizona) and the governing board passed a resolution, attached as **Exhibit B**, for the Arizona legislature to vote and approve for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation imposed by the Arizona Constitution. If the Arizona legislature does not approve, the Chinle School District will be forced to cut \$4,624,806. The Navajo Nation along with the Chinle Unified School District is in support of the Arizona legislature to vote and approve school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation.
- I. The Navajo Nation, through the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, is supporting and requesting the Arizona State legislature to vote and approve for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation. The Navajo Nation will be negatively impacted and is concerned about the \$1.1 billion at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports and requests the Arizona legislature, on or before March 1, the Senate and the House of Representatives by two-thirds majority approve for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation to avoid negative economic impact for school districts.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, and/or their respective designees, to advocate on the behalf of the Navajo Nation and requesting the Arizona legislature to approve school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24th 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 21 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 17th day of February 2022.



Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

2/18/22

Date

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Rickie Nez

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

Flagstaff Unified District	6	Wendy Rogers	Brenda Barton	Walter Blackman	\$12,221,169.00	\$12,221,169.00
Window Rock Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,363,652.00	\$2,363,652.00
Sanders Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$1,197,308.00	\$1,197,308.00
Ganado Unified School District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,079,079.00	\$2,079,079.00
Chinle Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$4,624,806.00	\$4,624,806.00
Red Mesa Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$914,709.00	\$914,709.00
Pine Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$3,067,462.00	\$3,067,462.00
Tuba City Unified School District #15	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,238,346.00	\$2,238,346.00
Winslow Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,357,006.00	\$2,357,006.00
Holbrook Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,634,491.00	\$2,634,491.00
Pinon Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$1,354,386.00	\$1,354,386.00
Cedar Unified District	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$81,916.00	\$81,916.00
Kayenta Unified School District #27	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$2,147,776.00	\$2,147,776.00
Northeast Arizona Technological Institute of Vocational Education	7	Theresa Hatathlie	Myron Tsoisie	Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren	\$458,302.00	\$458,302.00
					\$37,740,408.00	\$37,740,408.00
					\$20,280,128.00	\$20,280,128.00





CHINLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
A FY2022 AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE LIMIT OVERRIDE

The Arizona Legislature passed, and Governor Ducey signed, the state's Fiscal Year 2022 budget, including appropriations for state aid to school districts. This budget causes Arizona's education spending for the fiscal year to exceed the aggregate expenditure limit for K-12 education contained in the Arizona Constitution (Art. 9, Sec. 21). This resolution urges the Legislature to act quickly to override the limit to avoid immediate harm to school districts because:

WHEREAS, the Chinle Unified School District has timely and responsibly prepared its FY2022 budget in accordance with Arizona Law, with the expectation that sufficient revenue will be available to fund its obligations.

WHEREAS, if the Constitutional Aggregate Expenditure Limit is not overridden, Chinle Unified School District stands to be forced to cut \$4,624,806 from its budget on April 1, 2022.

WHEREAS, the vote to exceed the Constitutional Aggregate Expenditure Limit is necessary to allow school districts to expend money that has already been appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of K-12 education.

WHEREAS, a cut of this magnitude will significantly harm student learning, teacher and staff retention, and community trust by causing large furloughs and other cuts prior to the end of the school year.

WHEREAS, the school district in our community is a source not only of learning, but also economic stability and development, and a cut of this magnitude will have an economic impact on all residents of our community.

WHEREAS, it is within the Legislature's power under A.R.S. §15-944 to mitigate this looming fiscal crisis immediately by voting by a 2/3 majority to allow the expenditure of all appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, it is resolved that the school district governing board of the Chinle Unified School District, made up of locally elected and accountable school governing board members representing our community, does support the override of the Constitutional Aggregate Expenditure Limit for FY2022, and urges the Legislature to pass a resolution to that effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly considered by the Governing Board of Chinle Unified School District No. 24 at a duly called meeting at Chinle, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, this 9th day of February, 2022.



Paul Guy, Jr., President



Shawna A. Claw, Clerk



Wayne Claw, Member



Lucy E. Ayze, Member

Myron Tsosie, Member

NAVAJO NATION

1206

2/17/2022

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Special Meeting

06:14:00 PM

Amd# to Amd#	New Business: Item E.	PASSED
MOT Wauneka, E	-Legislation 0031-22: Supporting	
SEC Nez, R	and Requesting Arizona	
	Legislature to Approve By...	

Yeas : 21

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 21

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

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Crotty

Not Voting : 1

Daniels

Presiding Speaker: Damon