

RESOLUTION OF THE
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2017

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HEAD START WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES TO RECONSIDER THE REDUCTION IN FUNDING DUE
TO THE APPEARANCE OF UNDER ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2018 GRANT
APPLICATION #90C19889

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is the oversight committee for the Navajo Nation Head Start Program. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C) (1).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Head Start Program operates within the Executive Branch within the Department of Diné Education.
- B. In a letter to the Navajo Nation President (dated September 26, 2017) the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, notified the Navajo Nation that due to what it determines is chronic under-enrollment, it will reduce the funding level for Navajo Head Start program from \$22,325,901 to \$15,069,983, a reduction of \$7,255,918.
- C. This decision fails to take into account the fact that much of the Navajo Nation is rural and access to Head Start facilities is difficult and continues to be a significant cause of under-enrollment and often inconsistent enrollment as seasons and road access conditions change.
- D. The Head Start Program indicates that the 2015 American Community Survey found approximately 35,400 children under the age of 5 on the Navajo Nation, of which approximately 13,500 are at or below the poverty level and eligible for Head Start services.

- E. The proposed funding cut will have a significant negative impact upon the children and families who are presently served by the Navajo Head Start Program. The Navajo Nation treasures and values its youngest children and decreasing funding to this extent will result in school closure within their communities.
- F. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the children of our Nation to object to this funding reduction and strongly urge the Office of Head Start, Administration for children and Families, Department of Health, Education and Human Services to reconsider their decision and restore the funding reduction.

SECTION THREE. APPROVAL

The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby expresses its strenuous objection to this funding reduction and strongly urges the Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health, Education and Human Services to reconsider its decision and restore the funding reduction of \$7,255,918.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting held at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained, this 13th day of November, 2017

N - M B₁

Norman M. Begay, Vice Chairperson
Health, Education and Human Services Committee

Motion: Honorable Jonathan L. Hale
Second: Honorable Nathaniel Brown



NAVAJO HEAD START

Department of Diné Education

RUSSELL BEGAYE, President
JONATHAN NEZ, Vice President

DR. TIMOTHY BENALLY
Interim Superintendent of Head Start

NHSPC-17-10-2017

RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HEAD START WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UNDER THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, TO RECONSIDER THE LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 FOR FUNDING DECREASE DUE TO CHRONIC UNDER ENROLLMENT FOR 2018 GRANT APPLICATION #90CI9889

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. GSCMY-19-07. The Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council approved the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Head Start. The Navajo Nation Head Start is situated under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government within the Department of Dine Education; and
2. Pursuant to 45 CFR 1301.1 Program Governance, and 1301.3 the Navajo Head Start Policy Council is duly elected and an authorized entity of the Navajo Nation government; and
3. Pursuant to 45 CFR Sec. 1304.1(a) – Section 641A(c) of the Act requires the Secretary to monitor whether a grantee meets program governance, program operations, and financial and administrative standards described in this regulation and to identify areas for improvements and areas of strength as part of the grantee's ongoing self-assessment process. This subpart focuses on the monitoring process. It discusses areas of noncompliance, deficiencies, and corrective action through quality improvement plans; and
4. The Navajo Nation has shown progress in their enrollment numbers for School Year 2016-2017 which ended in May with a reported 1,914 children enrolled throughout the year. This letter is attached hereto as "EXHIBIT A" (i-iii).
5. The Navajo Nation treasures and values its youngest children and decreasing funds will result in school closures within their communities; and
6. The Navajo Head Start Policy Council strongly opposes the decision to decrease educational funding which impacts our low income children and their families. This letter is attached hereto as "EXHIBIT B" (i-ii).
7. Navajo Head Start was not given enough time to enroll children for school year 2017-2018 given the request per June 5, 2017 letter, and is determine to meet the funded enrollment of 2,105. This letter is attached hereto as "EXHIBIT C"(i-iv).
8. The Navajo Head Start Policy Council has the best interest of the Navajo Head Start's in providing quality services to children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED:

Navajo Head Start requests the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to reconsider the letter dated September 26, 2017 for a funding decrease due to chronic under enrollment for 2018 Grant Application #90CI9889.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Head Start Policy Council at a duly called meeting in Farmington, NM at San Juan College Classroom Room 55341 in which a quorum was present and that it was passed by vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 17th day of October 2017.

Motion by: Louise Charley

Second by: Larry Tsosie

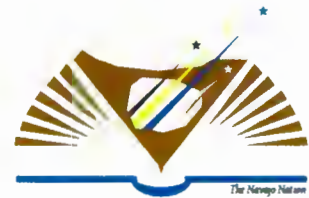


Bobby George, Vice President
DODE/Navajo Head Start Policy Council



**DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION
THE NAVAJO NATION**

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



Russell Begaye
President

Jonathan Nez
Vice-President

NNBEOC-400-2017

**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Relating to Education; Opposition to the \$7,255,918 Budget Cut to the Navajo Head Start program by the federal Administration for Children and Families – Office of Head Start

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 of Diné Education 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 Board. 10 N.N.C. §107(B).
3. The Navajo Head Start (“NHS”) Program, which is located within the Department of Diné Education as approved by the Department’s Plan of Operation, Resolution No. GSCMY-19-07. The NHS also is funded by a grant from the Office of Head Start, Administration of Children and Families (ACF), under the terms of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. §9801 *et seq.*, and applicable regulations.
4. The Navajo Head Start program is also located within the Department of Diné Education and under the supervision of the Navajo Nation Board of Education pursuant to the education reforms that were enacted through the Sovereignty in Education Act of 2005. The Navajo Nation Board of Education is also designated as the Navajo Head Start Governing Body pursuant to Resolution No. HEHSCS-035-13 (approved September 3, 2013).
5. Pursuant to 45 CFR Sec. 1304.1(a) – Section 641A(c) of the Act requires the Secretary to monitor whether a grantee meets program governance, program operations, and financial and administrative standards described in this regulation and to identify areas for improvements and areas of strength as part of the grantee’s ongoing self-assessment process. This subpart focuses on the monitoring process. It discusses areas of noncompliance, deficiencies, and corrective action through quality improvement plans.
6. In letter to the Navajo Nation President (dated September 26, 2017), the Administration for Children and Families – Office of Head Start, notified the Navajo Nation that that it will reduce the funding

BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Bennie Begay, President · Gloria Johns, Vice President · Delores Greyeyes, Secretary
Members: Dolly C. Begay · Dr. Pauline M. Begay · Marlene Burbank · Dr. Bernadette Todacheene · Patrick D. Lynch
Dr. Tommy Lewis, Jr., Superintendent of Schools*

level for Navajo Head Start program from \$22,325,901 to \$15,069,983, which is a budget cut totaling \$7,255,918 because of chronic underenrollment.

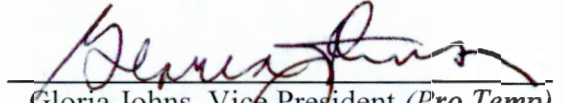
7. The proposed funding cut will have a significant negative impact upon the children and families who are presently served by the Navajo Head Start program. The Navajo Nation treasures and values its youngest children and decreasing funds will result in school closure within their communities.
8. The Navajo Head Start Policy Council and Board strongly opposes the decision to decrease educational funding which impacts our low income children and their families. Navajo Head Start program was not given enough time to enroll children for school year 2017-2018, and is determine to meet funded enrollment. The Navajo Head Start Policy Council resolution (NHSPC-17-10-2017) is attached hereto as “**EXHIBIT A.**”
9. The Navajo Nation has shown progress in their enrollment numbers for School Year 2016-2017 which ended in May with a reported 1,914 children enrolled throughout the year. (**EXHIBIT A**). The Navajo Head Start was not given enough time to enroll children for school year 2017-2018 given the request per June 5, 2017 letter, and is determine to meet the funded enrollment of 2,105. (see **EXHIBIT A**, C(i-iv).
10. The Navajo Head Start Policy Council and Board have the best interest of the Navajo Head Start’s in providing quality services to children and families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby opposes to the \$7,255,918 budget cut to the Navajo Head Start program by the federal Administration for Children and Families – Office of Head Start
2. The Navajo Nation Board of Education and Navajo Head Start program further requests that the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to reconsider the funding cut in the letter dated September 26, 2017 for funding decrease due to chronic under enrollment for 2018 grant application #90CI9889.
3. The Board and Navajo Head Start Policy Council strongly recommend that other entities of the Navajo Nation government, including the Navajo Nation Council to enact an official position statement opposing these drastic budget cuts.
4. The Navajo Nation Board of Education hereby recommends and empowers the Superintendent of Schools to take any actions deemed necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this resolution and directive.

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 Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Marlene Burbank and that the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained, this 18th day of October 2017.



Gloria Johns, Vice President (*Pro Temp*)
Navajo Nation Board of Education