



**NAVAJO
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**



OUR COMMUNITY

- Serve 294 students, grades 9-12, with 63% of students living on campus
- 98 BIE Schools on the Navajo Nation
- Students represent various Indigenous Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations within New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Montana.
- Every week, our buses travel 1,526 miles to pick up and drop off our students.
- Most Navajo Prep staff (65%) identify as Native American. Many of our teachers have taught at the university level and in international schools worldwide, including in India, China, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Mongolia, Mexico, Cambodia, Egypt, Germany, the Philippines, and Japan.

OUR IMPACT

Culture

- Our language is in a state of emergency. Navajo Prep sustains and enriches the Navajo language and culture by embedding the Diné Bizaad program within all four years of the student experience.
- 100% percent of students are enrolled in a Navajo language and culture class that includes meaningful language assessment.
- Navajo Prep hosts weekly after-school culture nights. These presentations range from winter stories, shoe games, string games nights, cooking demonstrations, etc.

94% High School Graduation Rate

Since 2020, Navajo Prep has sustained a high school graduation rate of 94% or higher



College Preparation:

Navajo Prep prepares students for college and meets vigorous international standards as one of 5,800 International Baccalaureate schools worldwide.

100%
Students from the Class of 2024 were accepted to a 4-year college or university.

60%
60% of Class of 2018 graduates who began seeking a college degree completed that degree. This compares to 44% of American Indian students nation-wide. U.S. Census reports that only 12.5% of Native people in NM hold a bachelor's degree.

Regional Impact

Serve students from 52 distinct communities, allowing a far reach into the Navajo Nation and beyond.

Increased Social and Emotional Support

Support the mental, physical, emotional, social (K'e) cultural development of students by providing a safe, healthy, and supportive environment that recognizes individuality and independence.

Navajo Preparatory School
1220 West Apache St.
Farmington, NM 87401



www.navajoprep.com
(505) 326-6571



NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Leaders Now and Into the Future



KEY ISSUES

Weighted Student Unit:

- Request an increase in funding for the Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) to better support Tribally Controlled Schools. Currently, ISEP funding is significantly lower than necessary, with Navajo Prep receives \$7,790 per pupil compared to \$13,933 per pupil for New Mexico Public Schools. This represents a **44% funding disparity** that undermines educational equity for Tribally Controlled Schools.

Tribally Controlled School Funding:

- Tribally controlled schools cannot draw on the local tax base, cannot issue bonds, and primarily rely on support from the federal government.
- Tribally Controlled Schools receive no designated funding for technology infrastructure, equipment, or management. Navajo Prep subsidizes ISEP funding to support safety, IT, and support staff, such as food services, transportation, and security. While ISEP funds are intended for direct academic services, schools must allocate ISEP funds toward these additional costs.

Policy Changes in Funding

- **Full, mandatory funding for Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)** funded schools in the FY26 Budget Request.
- **Reclassify BIE funding from discretionary to mandatory** to protect BIE schools and uphold the government's trust/treaty responsibility to American Indian education.
- Advance appropriations for the BIE until BIE funding is reclassified as mandatory funding.
- Navajo Prep **supports BIE's request for Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases** (often referred to as "105(l) leases" or "full service leases") to be moved from the discretionary side to the mandatory side of the federal budget. There is legal precedence for the Federal government to pay Contract Support Costs and 105 Leases. Navajo Prep requests that all Tribal Grant Support Costs be treated as Contract Support Costs. Moving these expenses to mandatory will ensure that ISEP allocation does not compete with Tribal Grant Support Costs.
- Navajo Prep requests **support for the H.R.5669-Parity for Tribal Educators Act**, which would authorize tribal school employees' access to the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) pension program and the Thrift Savings Program (TSP) retirement program.
- Extend the Legacy Restoration Fund by **reauthorizing the Great American Outdoors Act** to address deferred maintenance backlogs on federal lands and Bureau of Indian Education funded schools. The Navajo Nation Bureau of Indian Education funded schools have thirty schools in "poor" condition comprising 34% of the total list.



Shawna Allison Becenti
Head of School

sbecenti@navajoprep.com

505-860-0170

Yvette Escojeda
Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator

yescojeda@navajoprep.com

505-860-5785