

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL - MARCH 2025 BIE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The BIE Education Subcommittee, led by Tribal Chair Buster Atteberry of the Karuk Tribe and Federal Co-Chairs Tony Dearman and Sharon Pinto from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), provided updates on the FY 2025 BIE Budget and noted it is operating under a continued resolution with 73% of funds forward funded and 99% of FY 2024 TCS and TCU funds obligated. The FY 2025 funding request seeks availability of funds from July 1 to June 30 to avoid delays and ensure availability of funds in the upcoming school year.

Results from the 2027 Tribal Priority Ranking tool have shown that preferences in top-ranked programs have not changed significantly from year to year. Tribally Controlled Schools show the highest participation. Results of the 2027 Tribal Priority Ranking Tool are as follows:

1. Indian Student Equalization Program (ISEP) Formula Funds
2. ISEP Student Transportation
3. Facilities Operations
4. Education Program Enhancements
5. ISEP Program Adjustments

Oversight Hearing - April 2, 2025 “Native American Education – Examining Federal Programs at the U.S. Department of Education”

The recent U.S. Senate Oversight Hearing addressed Executive Order 14242 and the potential restructuring or closure of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). Tribal leaders, educators, and advocates emphasized the critical importance of maintaining federal programs that serve Native students, especially through a Trust and Treaty obligation lens.

Conclusion & Call to Action

Tribal representatives and advocates made it clear: do not dismantle the Department of Education without meaningful tribal consultation. Instead, enhance funding, protect tribal sovereignty, and recognize the treaty and trust responsibilities of the federal government.

Tribal school boards are encouraged to:

- Monitor developments around EO 14242.
- Advocate for direct federal funding to tribal schools.
- Support legislation protecting Impact Aid, Title VI, and culturally responsive programming.
- Engage in consultation processes to safeguard Native education rights and ensure educational equity and cultural preservation.

