



TIBC REPORT

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

OCT 2024

NOV 2024

Prepared For:

**The Diné Grant Schools
Association & the Diné
Bi' Olta' School Board
Association Winter
Conference on
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TIBC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Education Subcommittee Pre-Meeting with BIE and Chairs of the Tribal Interior Budget Committee during the NIEA conference on October 9, 2024.
2. The Tribal Interior Budget Council's Education Subcommittee met in Washington, DC, on November 18, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER 9, 2024 TIBC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE WORKGROUP HYBRID MEETING

The Education Subcommittee was led by Tribal Chair Buster Atteberry of the Karuk Tribe and Federal Co-Chairs Tony Dearman, Director of BIE, and Sharon Pinto, Deputy Director of BIE. The committee had three work session topics: school construction, ranking tool for education, and assessments. This meeting was held in conjunction with the NIEA Trade Show & Convention. Because not all Education Sub-committee members attended the NIEA Trade Show & Convention, this meeting provided attendance virtually.

The following highlights provide an overview of critical updates and actionable priorities for Tribally Controlled School Board members, focusing on budget methodologies, funding initiatives, pay parity progress, unmet needs, and school safety. These key points emphasize the importance of accurate data collection, advocacy for mandatory funding, and strategic planning to address the evolving challenges and opportunities within BIE-supported programs.

- Budget and Funding Updates:
 - Allocations reflect BIE funding levels for programs like Native Language Immersion and FACE, with cost estimates based on staffing and transportation trends.
 - Forward funding under 25 CFR begins June 2024, with a 10% BIE budget increase in 2025 addressing unmet needs in student support, safety, and operations.
- Employee Pay Parity and Tribal Grant Support Costs:
 - TCS employees receive federal pay parity, supported by a \$27 million ISEP increase in 2025.
 - Advocacy for mandatory TGSC funding to include administrative and IT expenses is ongoing, with revised methodologies under development.
- Safety and Security Challenges:
 - \$93 million in unmet school security funding, including the reclassification of School Resource Officers for funding eligibility.
 - Focus on facilities improvement projects through the Great American Outdoors Act and earmarked funding discussions.
- Actionable Next Steps:
 - Enhance accuracy in student counts and data reporting for long-term budget planning.
 - Prioritize advocacy for mandatory funding in critical areas, including safety, IT, and administrative costs, during the November session.



TIBC Education Subcommittee
Report Presentation



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2024 TIBC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

The 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), addressed key challenges faced by Tribally Controlled Schools. Discussions focused on budget allocation methods, achieving pay parity for Tribal school employees, and funding gaps in transportation, safety, and administrative support. Emphasis was placed on improving student enrollment accuracy, enhancing rules for Tribal Grant Support Costs, and adjusting funding formulas. The meeting outlined collaborative next steps to address these unmet needs, empowering Tribally Controlled Schools and the Navajo Nation to advocate for equitable funding and sustainability.

2025 BIE Budget Overview The BIE is operating under a continued resolution, receiving just 22% of non-forward-funded resources. The 2025 funding request seeks a modest 7% increase over 2024 levels but remains unchanged from the past two years. Key focus areas include:

- **Tribal Grant Support Costs (TGSC):** Funding is based on school resources and student numbers, with an effort underway to reclassify it as mandatory by FY 2026.
- **Student Transportation:** Schools drive over 14 million miles annually on challenging roads. The TIBC Transportation Subcommittee is working to address this critical issue.
- **School Construction:** Current funding limits allow for just one school replacement annually, leaving over 30 schools in urgent need.

Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Program The JOM Program, using outdated 1995 student counts, is being updated to reflect the 316,515 students in FY25. Discussions on forward funding are progressing.

Higher Education and Tribal Colleges notable highlights include \$85 million in operational funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), \$16 million for facility improvements, and a landmark achievement by Navajo Technical University with its first accredited Diné Culture and Language Sustainability Ph.D. program.

