

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Adopting Navajo Education Policy

WHEREAS:

1. Great progress has been made in improving educational opportunities for Navajo people in the past ten years.

2. However, many areas need improvement and it is appropriate that the Navajo Tribal Council consider over all policy objectives with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the future development of education opportunities for Navajo people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The attached Exhibit entitled "Navajo Education Policy Statement" is hereby adopted by the Navajo Tribal Council as the Education Policy of the Navajo Tribe.

2. The Navajo Tribal Council urgently requests the Congress of the United States and responsible officials of the Department of the Interior to use their best efforts to implement the aims and objectives of the Navajo Education Policy, through appropriation and administrative action.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 58 in favor and 0 opposed, this 29th day of August, 1961.



Vice Chairman
Navajo Tribal Council

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JOINT BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS-NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL
Navajo Education Policy Statement

Under Congressional authorities and Departmental direction it shall be the policy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Tribe to attack simultaneously the education problems of Navajos on all fronts and at all levels, from beginning grades through adult programs, by laying the problems before the public, the Congress, and by working in cooperation with the State, local and public school officials, and other Federal agencies in providing the type of education opportunities that best meet the needs of the Navajo people.

The ultimate education objective is educational competency for all Navajo people so that they may participate in the local community, State, and national life equally with other citizens. Therefore, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Tribe shall plan educational programs in terms of specific needs of the Navajo people and seek funds from the Congress to carry out each program.

I. Policy objectives. It shall be the policy

1. To provide educational opportunities for Navajo children on the reservation from beginners through grade twelve in order that all children may be near their parents. This is the basis for developing an educational system on the Navajo Reservation in keeping with the pattern of public education in the United States.
2. To develop, when there is mutual rediness, educational opportunities in public schools for Navajo children at all grade levels in order that Navajo youth may have the opportunity to participate in public school educational programs on an equal basis with other citizens.
3. To use present off-reservation education facilities for Navajo youth as long as the need exists.
4. To provide through State and other resources educational opportunities for mentally and physically handicapped Navajo children (blind, deaf, spastic, etc.)
5. To encourage Navajo high school graduates to utilize fully existing facilities and programs in pursuit of further education and/or training in keeping with their individual interests and capabilities.
6. To provide adult education instruction in close cooperation with local community groups.

II. Implementation of policy objectives

1. Navajo students will attend schools on the reservation.

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(a) In public schools wherever they are already available. Additional public school opportunities will be developed on the reservation as public school officials and the Navajo people are mutually prepared.

(b) In Federal day schools wherever population will support a day operation. The value attached to home living with school attendance on a day basis remains a primary objective of tribal and Bureau education policy.

(c) Existing boarding schools will be expanded on the reservation at the nearest locations to the parents to care for the remainder who cannot be accommodated in day facilities. As roads are developed students who can be reached will attend on a day basis. When a boarding facility can serve all children within the area on a day basis the boarding facility will be converted to day operation.

2. Conditions under which Navajo students may attend Off-reservation schools.

(a) Navajo students who are up to grade may attend public schools wherever public schools have been made available for them within the States of their residence. The Bureau will assure dormitory care make suitable contract arrangements for instruction in the public schools.

(b) Navajo children 13 years of age or older who are retarded two or more grades may continue to attend off-reservation Federal schools to receive special vocational instruction as long as the need exists.

(c) Navajo students 13 years of age or older who cannot be accommodated in on reservation schools will continue to attend off-reservation schools.

3. Education beyond high school level.

(a) Post high school courses in Haskell and Chilocco will continue to be available to Navajos.

(b) Vocational training under Public Law 959 will be available to qualified Navajo applicants.

(c) Qualified Navajo students will be encouraged to make the fullest use of all scholarship assistance - tribal scholarships, Bureau and private scholarships - to further their education in colleges and universities, and technical and trade schools.

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4. Adult education. Lack of early opportunities for education makes it imperative that many appropriate courses be provided for Navajo adults to insure their educational progress. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Tribe will work with all agencies providing adult instruction to plan and develop adult education programs in closest possible keeping with requests initiated by the local community.

5. Special education. In cooperation with responsible agencies the greatest care will be exercised to identify the handicapped Navajo students.

(a) For such handicapped students whose needs can be met in a modified school environment, arrangements will be made (in cooperation with responsible agencies) to provide adequate instruction in existing schools.

(b) The extreme cases that cannot be provided for in a modified school situation and thus require institutional care shall be provided for in appropriate State and private institutions.

Summary

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Tribe agree to work in full cooperation in developing plans that will carry out all phases of the foregoing policy objectives.


Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council

Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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