

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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LEGISLATION NO: _0198-21_

SPONSOR: Eugene Tso

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee;
Establishing the Educational Recovery Task Force**

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0198-21

DATE: September 9, 2021

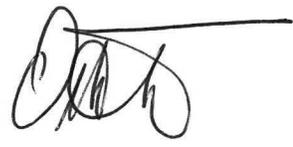
TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY TASK FORCE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if adopted, would establish the Educational Recovery Task Force.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL — Third Year, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 _____
5
6 (Primary Sponsor) 

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0198-21

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;
12 ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY TASK FORCE

13
14 BE IT ENACTED:

15 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

16 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the
17 Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §400 *et seq.* The committee oversees the Department
18 of Diné Education, the Navajo Nation Board of Education, and colleges within the
19 Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(1) and (3). In carrying out these oversight
20 responsibilities, the committee “assist[s], support[s] and coordinate[s] with local
21 communities, parent organizations and school boards and school board organizations.”
22 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(4).

23 B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(5), the Health, Education and Human Services
24 Committee is authorized to “delegate responsibilities and authorities as appropriate to
25 the Divisions, Chapters and appropriate entities for the efficiency and streamlining of
26 government processes provided that the Committee first approves rules and regulations
27 governing such delegations and rescission of such delegations.” 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(5).

28
29 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 1 A. The education of our Navajo children has been affected and interrupted by the health
2 crisis of COVID-19. The educational disruption has been severe, essentially resulting
3 in a learning crisis. This crisis has affected the entire nation, reflected through low
4 academic test scores and standardized benchmarks not being met.
- 5 B. This educational crisis must be addressed, by the Navajo Nation locally and the federal
6 government at the national level. The responsibility for the education of Navajo
7 children rests with both the Navajo Nation and the federal government.
- 8 C. It is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation that a Task Force be established for
9 purposes of reviewing and addressing certain issues and concerns related to the impact
10 of COVID-19 on the education of Navajo children.

11
12 **SECTION THREE. EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY FORCE ESTABLISHMENT**

- 13 A. The Navajo Nation establishes the Educational Recovery Task Force to review the
14 following subject areas, issues and concerns:
- 15 1). Drop-out rate of Navajo students during the pandemic (including the number of
16 students permanently dropping out).
 - 17 2). Plans for remediation of learning loss during the pandemic (including current
18 mitigation efforts).
 - 19 3). Plans for training teachers in providing effective evidence-based online education,
20 and whether teachers are prepared to use online teaching methods.
 - 21 4). The impact of internet connectivity issues on student participation in daily online
22 school instructions and activities (including the number of Navajo students
23 impacted).
 - 24 5). Plans for school official s in making home visits for purposes of following up on at-
25 risk students.
 - 26 6). The severity of exploitation by family members of assistance made available to
27 students under COVID-10 relief help.
 - 28 7). Parents losing jobs due to providing daily care for their children at home and not
29 in school due to the pandemic (including number of parents losing jobs).
 - 30

1 8). The inability of parents in providing on li ne learning assistance to their children
2 due to computer literacy problems faced by parents (including the number of such
3 parents).

4 9). Adequate mental and emotional support for Navajo students in coping with fear and
5 anxiety related to the pandemic (including the number of students provided such
6 support).

7 B. By written report, the Educational Recovery Task Force shall provide
8 recommendations on addressing issues identified herein. This written report shall be
9 presented to the Health, Education and Human Service Committee no later than 90 days
10 of Task Force establishment.

11 C. The Educational Recovery Task Force shall consist of:

- 12 1). The Superintendent of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education;
13 2). _____ members of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee –
14 _____
15 _____
16 3). _____;
17 4). _____; and,
18 5). _____.

19 D. Rules and regulations shall be as follows:

- 20 1). The presence of a majority of Task Force members shall constitute a quorum.
21 2). To the extent permitted by Navajo Nation law, and except as otherwise provided
22 herein, the same rules and provisions of law applicable to subcommittees of
23 standing committees of the Navajo Nation Council shall apply to the Task Force.
24 3). The members of the Task Force, by majority vote, shall select and determine the
25 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Task Force.
26 4). The Task Force shall determine meeting dates and times.
27 5). The Navajo Department of Diné Education shall provide technical assistance to the
28 Task Force. The Navajo Department of Justice and Office of Legislative Counsel
29 shall provide legal advice and guidance on any legal issues and concerns. The
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1 Office of Legislative Services and the staff of Department of Diné Education shall
2 provide any clerical and administrative assistance.

3 6). The Task Force shall provide a written report on all assigned tasks herein, including
4 recommendations, and provide this report to the Health, Education and Human
5 Services Committee no later than 90 days of Task Force establishment.

6 7). The Task Force shall exist for a period of 90 calendar days, unless extended by duly
7 approved resolution of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

8 8). The Task Force shall be authorized to take any other necessary and proper action
9 not specified herein, provided such action is consistent with the intent and purposes
10 of this resolution of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.
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12 **SECTION FOUR. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

13 Should any part of this action be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme
14 Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation
15 Supreme Court, portions not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.
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