



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2023

Ganado Unified School District receives tablets to assist students without internet access



Photo: (L-R) Lynann Yazzie, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Delegate Dr. Andy Nez , Corrina Begay, GUSD Primary and Intermediate Principal, Dr. Leandra Thomas, GUSD Interim Superintendent, Edward COTA, ADE Chief Strategy Officer, HEHSC Chair Vince James, Delegate Curtis Yanito, Delegate George Tolth.

Window Rock, Ariz – On Thursday, May 25, during a regular meeting of the Health, Education, and Human Services Standing Committee (HEHSC) representatives from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) presented the Ganado Unified School District (GUSD) with tablets to assist second and third grade students who do not have internet access.

HEHSC Chair Delegate Vince R. James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat) said that the Amazon Fire tablets were preloaded with GUSD curriculum content and were only being provided to children who had no access to broadband or the internet.

“This came about when the school indicated that students were failing because they had no access to the internet or broadband,” Chair James said. “We are trying to reach out and assist these families.”

GUSD Interim Superintendent Dr. Leandra Thomas said that the pandemic exasperated the disparities that existed between students who had broadband and those who did not.

“Everything we’re doing is for the best interest of our students. During the pandemic, GUSD

and the surrounding schools were impacted to where we had to react fast and try to provide services to students that didn't have the internet," Thomas said. "To this day we still have families that are in need who don't have broadband."

GUSD Primary and Intermediate Principal Corrina Begay expressed gratitude to ADE for supporting the students who needed these resources.

"We have plenty of little ones who don't have internet access. Our third-grade students need to be at the state level, and we expect them to be fully functional at that level. Yet, we still have students who are not performing at the third-grade level," Begay said. "I'm grateful for this opportunity to get these tablets. I'm thankful and I hope this really helps our children."

On behalf of ADE, Deputy Associate Superintendent Lynnann Yazzie and Chief Strategy Officer Edward Cota presented Thomas and Begay with the tablets.

HEHSC thanks ADE for providing these educational tools to GUSD for the benefit of those students who lack broadband access.

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