

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0103-26_

SPONSOR: Otto Tso

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health Education and Human Services Committee;
Amending the Navajo Head Start Plan of Operation**

Date posted: May 27, 2026 at 11:08AM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0103-26

DATE: April 17, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE NAVAJO HEAD START PLAN OF OPERATION

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would amend the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Head Start.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Health Education and Human Services Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

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.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD:
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 06-01-26
Eligible for Action: 06-02-26

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

3 Introduced by:

4 
5 _____

6 Primary Sponsor

7
8 Tracking No. 0103-26

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
12 COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE NAVAJO HEAD START PLAN OF
13 OPERATION

14
15 BE IT ENACTED:

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17 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- 18 A. The Health Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of
19 the Navajo Nation Council with the purpose of promulgating regulations,
20 promoting accountability to policies, and providing legislative oversight on matters
21 involving health, social service, education, and general governmental services and
22 human services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A) and (C)(1).
23 B. The Health Education and Human Services Committee also serves as the legislative
24 oversight for the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education with authority to
25 amend or rescind Plans of Operation under the Committee’s oversight. 2 N.N.C. §§
26 401(B)(8) and (C)(1).

27
28 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 29 A. The Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education (DODE) is established under the
30 Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government as the administrative agency

1 responsible for education across the Navajo Nation, comprised of the programs and
2 components necessary to carry out that function. 2 N.N.C. §§ 1801(A) and (B), and
3 1802(C).

4 B. DODE administers the Navajo Nation Head Start Program, which provides early
5 childhood education, health, nutrition, and family support services to eligible
6 children and families throughout the Navajo Nation.

7 C. The Head Start Program operates pursuant to a Plan of Operation that establishes
8 its organizational structure, governance, administrative procedures, and
9 programmatic responsibilities, ensuring compliance with applicable Navajo Nation
10 laws and federal Head Start requirements.

11 D. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee last approved amendments
12 to the Head Start Plan of Operation in April 2019 through Resolution No.
13 HEHSCAP-08-19.

14 E. Since that time, it has become necessary to update the Plan of Operation to reflect
15 current program practices, improve organizational clarity, and ensure continued
16 alignment with applicable laws, regulations, and operational needs.

17 F. The proposed amendments include updates to program purpose, goals,
18 organizational structure, authority and responsibilities, and supporting program
19 functions, including the incorporation of an updated organizational chart. The
20 amended Head Start Plan of Operation and updated organizational chart are
21 attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

22 G. The Navajo Nation Board of Education, through Resolution No. NNBEJE-1086-
23 2025 dated June 6, 2025, attached as **Exhibit B**, approved the proposed
24 amendments to the Navajo Head Start Plan of Operation and updated
25 organizational chart, and further requested that the Health, Education and Human
26 Services Committee approve such amendments.

27 H. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice completed an Executive Official Review
28 of the proposed amendments and has determined that the updated Plan of Operation
29 is legally sufficient, attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

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I. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to approve the updated Head Start Plan of Operation to ensure effective program administration, maintain compliance with applicable requirements, and continue providing quality early childhood services to Navajo children and families.

SECTION THREE. AMENDING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO HEAD START

The Health Education and Human Services Committee hereby approves the amendments, within **Exhibit A**, to the Navajo Head Start Plan of Operation.