

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0225-26

SPONSOR: Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting the Education Appropriations Contained in the United States House of Representatives Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Bill, H.R. 9260; And Urging the United States Senate to Enact Comparable or Greater Appropriations Supporting the Education of Navajo Students

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0225-26

DATE: October 6, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FISCAL YEAR 2027 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, H.R. 9260; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ENACT COMPARABLE OR GREATER APPROPRIATIONS SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF NAVAJO STUDENTS

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would formally support the education-related appropriations contained in H.R. 9260, the Fiscal Year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, and urge the United States Senate to enact comparable or greater appropriations for the programs serving Navajo students.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

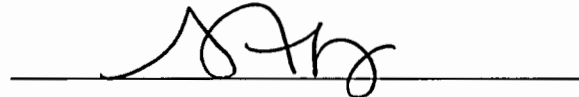
VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

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: MM/AA
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 10/11/26
Eligible for Action: 10/12/26

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

Introduced By:



Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0225-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES FISCAL YEAR 2027 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, H.R.
9260; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ENACT COMPARABLE
OR GREATER APPROPRIATIONS SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF
NAVAJO STUDENTS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to coordinate all request for information, appearances, and testimony related to proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2. N.N.C. §§ 700 (A) and 701 (A)(6).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard the interest, rights, and traditions of the Navajo people. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- C. The Navajo Nation is a sovereign Tribal Nation with a government-to-government relationship with the United States, as recognized under the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians, June 1, 1868, 15 U.S. Stat 667, and has an enrolled membership of over 420,000.

- 1 D. The education of Navajo children is a fulfillment of treaty promises to provide for
2 the welfare of tribal sovereigns and their children. Congress has found that it “has
3 assumed the responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian tribes and
4 their resources,” 25 U.S.C. § 1901(2), and that “there is no resource that is more vital
5 to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children and that
6 the United States has a direct interest, as trustee, in protecting Indian children,” 25
7 U.S.C. § 1901(3).
- 8 E. The United States Department of Education (“US ED”) is the agency of the federal
9 government that establishes policy for, administers, and coordinates most federal
10 assistance to education, and its mission is to serve America’s students by promoting
11 student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness through educational
12 excellence and equal access.
- 13 F. When Congress created US ED in 1979, it declared the purposes of the Department
14 to include strengthening the federal commitment to ensuring access to equal
15 educational opportunity for every individual; supplementing and complementing the
16 efforts of the States, local school systems, the private sector, public and private
17 educational institutions, community-based organizations, parents, and students to
18 improve the quality of education; encouraging the increased involvement of the
19 public, parents, and students in federal education programs; promoting
20 improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through federally supported
21 research, evaluation, and the sharing of information; improving the coordination of
22 federal education programs; improving the management and efficiency of federal
23 education activities; and increasing the accountability of federal education programs
24 to the President, the Congress, and the public. Section 102, Public Law 96-88.
- 25 G. During the establishment of Bureau of Indian Education (“BIE”) schools and
26 Tribally Controlled Grant Schools (“TCS”) within the United States Department of
27 the Interior (“DOI”), Congress recognized in the Improving America’s Schools Act
28 of 1994 that “active consultation” between DOI and tribal leaders is necessary and
29 integral to achieving Indian education. 25 U.S.C. § 2011(b).
- 30

- 1 H. In the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Congress reinforced the “active
2 consultation” requirement by setting standards that DOI work in a government-to-
3 government relationship to ensure quality education for all tribal members. 20 U.S.C.
4 § 6319.
- 5 I. Through Navajo Nation resolutions NABIJN-39-25 and CJA-13-26, the Navajo
6 Nation formally requested tribal consultation regarding the education of its students
7 within Bureau of Indian Education schools, Tribally Controlled Grant Schools,
8 public schools, and other educational settings.
- 9 J. On June 4, 2026, the United States House Committee on Appropriations released the
10 Fiscal Year 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
11 Agencies Appropriations Bill. The Subcommittee marked up the bill on June 5, 2026,
12 the full Committee approved it on June 9, 2026, by a vote of 34 to 28, and the bill
13 was reported and placed on the Union Calendar on June 11, 2026, as H.R. 9260,
14 Union Calendar No. 604, accompanied by House Report 119-696. The full text of
15 H.R. 9260 as reported is available at
16 <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr9260/BILLS-119hr9260rh.pdf> and House
17 Report 119-696 is available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-119hrpt696/html/CRPT-119hrpt696.htm>.
18
- 19 K. H.R. 9260 provides a total discretionary allocation of \$189.3 billion for the
20 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related
21 agencies, which is \$5.6 billion, or three percent, below the Fiscal Year 2026 enacted
22 level, and provides a discretionary total of \$70.7 billion for US ED, which is \$8
23 billion, or ten percent, below the Fiscal Year 2026 enacted level.
- 24 L. As detailed in House Report 119-696, H.R. 9260 provides the following levels within
25 US ED for programs that directly serve Navajo students: Title I of the Elementary
26 and Secondary Education Act at \$16.791 billion, a reduction of approximately \$2.3
27 billion from the Fiscal Year 2026 enacted level of \$19.128 billion, with Title I, Part
28 A grants to local educational agencies reduced by approximately \$1.9 billion and
29 both Title I migrant education programs eliminated; special education at \$15.5
30 billion, including \$14.269 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,

1 Part B State grants; Impact Aid at \$1.635 billion, an increase of \$5 million; Indian
2 Education under Title VI at \$201 million, an increase of \$4 million; Native American
3 Language Resource Centers at \$4 million, an increase of \$1 million; Title IV-A
4 Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants at \$1.385 billion; Career and
5 Technical Education State grants at \$1.449 billion; TRIO at approximately \$1.2
6 billion, an increase of \$6 million; GEAR UP at \$394 million; and a maximum Pell
7 Grant award of \$7,445, an increase of \$50, supported by a discretionary maximum
8 award of \$6,385.

9 M. H.R. 9260 also eliminates funding for the \$2.19 billion Title II-A Supporting
10 Effective Instruction State Grants program and the \$890 million Title III English
11 Language Acquisition program, reduces the Institute of Education Sciences to \$494
12 million, reduces Federal Work-Study by \$322 million to \$908 million, and reduces
13 the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant by \$364 million to \$546
14 million, each of which reduces academic support and postsecondary affordability for
15 Navajo students.

16 N. The companion Fiscal Year 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
17 Appropriations Bill, H.R. 9171, accompanied by House Report 119-687, available
18 respectively at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/BILLS-119hr9171rh> and
19 <https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/119th-congress/house-report/687>
20 provides \$1,547,961,000 for the Bureau of Indian Education, an increase of \$181.6
21 million, or approximately 13.3 percent, above the Fiscal Year 2026 enacted level,
22 and \$3,211,709,000 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and thereby recognizes the
23 federal trust and treaty responsibility owed to Navajo students attending Bureau of
24 Indian Education and Tribally Controlled Grant Schools.

25 O. House Report 119-687 further provides that the reprogramming guidelines
26 accompanying the Interior bill apply to proposed reorganizations, workforce
27 restructuring, reshaping, transfer of functions, and bureau-wide downsizing,
28 including closures, consolidations, and relocations of offices and facilities, and that
29 no agency shall implement any part of a reorganization modifying the regional or
30 state boundaries of an agency or bureau in effect on the date of enactment unless

1 approved consistent with the General Guidelines for Reprogramming, which
2 protection is directly relevant to the administration of Bureau of Indian Education
3 schools serving Navajo students.

4 P. The Navajo Nation is encouraged by the increased investment in Bureau of Indian
5 Education and Bureau of Indian Affairs programs and by the increases provided in
6 H.R. 9260 for Impact Aid, Indian Education, Native American Language Resource
7 Centers, and Pell Grants, and understands that the reductions to US ED are advanced
8 as part of a broader reorganization. The Navajo Nation nevertheless does not consider
9 the reshuffling of programs and the elimination of resources to be an effective means
10 of implementing Executive Order 14210, "Implementing the President's
11 'Department of Government Efficiency' Workforce Optimization Initiative," and
12 opposes any further reduction to US ED.

13 Q. On February 10, 2026, the United States Departments of Education, the Interior, and
14 Labor conducted a tribal consultation in Washington, D.C., on the Interagency
15 Agreements governing Indian education programs, and on June 9, 2026, US ED
16 published a summary of that consultation as a Final Report, attached hereto as
17 **Exhibit A**. The Final Report reflects that a majority of written and verbal comments
18 called for consultation to be ongoing and regionally accessible throughout
19 implementation, and that tribal leaders called for specific staffing commitments,
20 mechanisms of transparency, defined consultation structures, and protection of grant
21 funding.

22 R. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation that all federal directives, executive
23 orders, and appropriations decisions impacting its citizens, particularly in education
24 and workforce restructuring, be subject to formal tribal review and meaningful
25 consultation, including coordination with the Navajo Nation Council, the Office of
26 the President and Vice President, and the Navajo public.

27
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

29 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the education-related appropriations contained
30 in H.R. 9260, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education,

1 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2027, and requests that the United States
2 House of Representatives pass H.R. 9260 and that the United States Senate enact
3 appropriations that meet or exceed those levels on behalf of the over 100,000 Navajo
4 students, the over 230 Navajo Nation educational institutions, and the opportunities
5 extended to Navajo students from early childhood programs through post-secondary
6 learning.

7 B. The Navajo Nation strongly recommends that the Senate Appropriations Committee
8 reject the reduction to Title I, restore Title I to no less than the Fiscal Year 2026
9 enacted level of \$19.128 billion, and reject the elimination of the Title I migrant
10 education programs, in order to preserve funding for the programs that serve the more
11 than 75,000 Navajo students attending public schools, including those in urban
12 school districts, primarily across the southwestern United States.

13 C. The Navajo Nation further requests that the United States Senate maintain or increase
14 the House funding levels for Impact Aid, the Individuals with Disabilities Education
15 Act, Indian Education under Title VI, Native American Language Resource Centers,
16 Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants, Career and Technical
17 Education State grants, Pell Grants, TRIO, and GEAR UP, and restore funding for
18 the Title II-A and Title III programs, the Federal Work-Study program, and the
19 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, because these programs
20 sustain academic and administrative staff positions and provide academic services,
21 special education support, college access and readiness, and financial assistance to
22 thousands of Navajo students each year.

23 D. The Navajo Nation strongly recommends that the United States Senate maintain or
24 increase the Bureau of Indian Education funding levels contained in H.R. 9171 and
25 House Report 119-687, including the Indian Student Equalization Program, facilities
26 operations and maintenance, Johnson-O'Malley, tribal colleges and universities,
27 scholarships and adult education, and education construction, and provide greater
28 investment in Bureau of Indian Education school construction and facility repair in
29 order to address the multibillion-dollar backlog of aging schools across Indian
30 Country.

- 1 E. The Navajo Nation supports and requests the continued funding of Native language
2 and culturally responsive education programs that preserve Indigenous languages
3 while improving student achievement, including the Diné language and bilingual and
4 multilingual initiatives, programs, and services.
- 5 F. The Navajo Nation calls upon US ED, DOI, and the United States Department of
6 Labor to work with the Navajo Nation and other tribal communities to improve the
7 recruitment and retention of qualified teachers and administrators serving tribal
8 communities, including pathways for Navajo students and community members to
9 enter and remain in the education profession, and reaffirms the position taken in
10 NABIF-08-26 and CJA-13-26 regarding tribal consultation and the proposed
11 dismantling of US ED. Federal educational agencies shall continue to coordinate
12 with Tribal Nations and conduct meaningful consultation before implementing any
13 significant policy, administrative, or budgetary change affecting the education of
14 Navajo students, consistent with 25 U.S.C. § 2011(b), Executive Order 13175, and
15 the commitments reflected in **Exhibit A**.
- 16 G. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, Navajo Nation
17 Vice-President, and the Navajo Nation Council and their designees to take all steps
18 necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation's position with respect to this resolution.
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