

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-048

Title: Requesting That the President's FY 2003 Budget Include Increases in Student Transportation, Facilities, Operations and Maintenance and Administrative Cost Grants to Enhance the Quality of Education in the BIA Funded Education System and Supports Full Consultation With Affected School and Tribes Prior to Making Changes in the IESP Formula

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the funding levels for certain BIA education program; including Student Transportation, Facilities Operations and Maintenance, and Administrative Cost Grants have been funded at well below the required levels, thereby requiring schools to reduce the funds available for pupil instruction to make up these deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is considering changes to the Indian School Equalization program(ISEP) that would eliminate specific formula; and

WHEREAS, the quality of educational services that the 50,000 American Indian students receive through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs is directly related to the level of annual funding received by the BIA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support full consultation with Indian Country prior to making any changes to the ISEP program either administratively or otherwise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports funding at the 100% level of need for all components of ISEP; including Student Transportation, Facilities Operations and Maintenance, and Administrative Cost Grants; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.