



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-050

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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TREASURER
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Title: **Review of Standardized Testing for American Indian Students and Develop Recommendations for School**

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians in our own distinct territories, 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 use of standardized tests to assess the skills and knowledge of students in our public schools has developed into a major criterion used in the accountability measures for students as well as the teachers' and schools' capabilities; and

WHEREAS, NCAI recognizes that many American Indian students do not perform well on standardized tests such as the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) which are used in many states; and

WHEREAS, as an example of this – the majority of public school students in the state of Montana that attend school on or near Indian reservations are in the bottom ranking of the ITBS test results when compared with all other schools/students at the 4th, 8th, and 11th grade test score results on ITBS; and

WHEREAS, it is important that appropriate use of standardized tests, such as ITBS, as a part of the assessment of American Indian students' achievement levels be supported with research and data.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline L. Johnson
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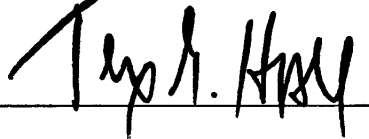
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the review of nationally-recognized standardized testing mechanisms and the high probability that these tests may be unreliable when assessing American Indian students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI in cooperation with the National Indian Education Association will work with the national testing programs (ACT, ITBS, etc.) to develop a National American Indian data base, review the norming process for test results, as well as the test development and implementation to determine if there are testing procedures that are culturally and economically inappropriate for American Indian students; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI will report its findings to its membership within the next two years and have recommendations for the use of standardized tests for all schools who serve American Indian students.

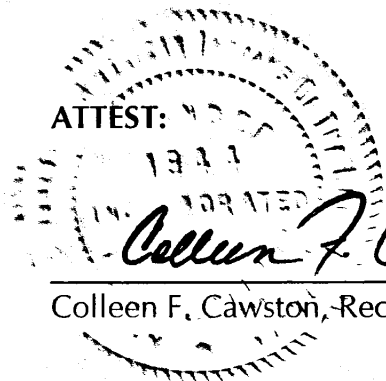
CERTIFICATION

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 F. 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.