



**NATIONAL  
INDIAN  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION**



# RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF  
NIEA AND APPROVED BY THE  
PRESIDENTS OF NIEA,  
ROBERT B. COOK 2008-2009,  
DR. WILLARD S. GILBERT 2007-2008

AT THE:

38TH CONVENTION, 2007  
39TH CONVENTION, 2008





110 Maryland Ave. NE  
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Washington, DC 20002  
[www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org)  
(202) 544-7290

## NIEA RESOLUTION 08-02

**TITLE: SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF FEDERAL IMPACT AID**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind act continues to be under funded and has negative consequences for Indian Impact Aid school districts as they continue to struggle to maintain and meet the basic educational needs of Native student, families and communities, including meeting the basic transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Impact Aid is currently funded at 60% of need as defined by law; and there is a need for an additional \$600 million to fully fund Impact Aid; now

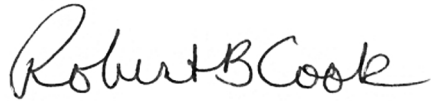
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association urges the U.S. Government to fulfill its' trust responsibility and fully fund the Federal Impact Aid to support the educational needs of Native students, parents, tribes and local education agencies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association urges the U.S. Congress to develop a forward funding methodology of the Federal Impact Aid so the local education agencies are not faced with annual budget constraints.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association supports the basic premise of both the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and National Indian Impacted School Association to seek full federal funding for Impact Aid.

## CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 26, 2008 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "C".

Robert B. Cook (2008-2009)

President

National Indian Education Association



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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-03**

**TITLE: INCREASE ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN FUNDS FOR THE ESTHER MARTINEZ ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, in Native communities across the country, Native languages are in rapid decline and it is estimated that only twenty indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the key to stemming the loss of Native American languages is by significantly increasing support for Native American language immersion programs and programs designed to build towards language immersion. It is well proven that language immersion programs are one of the few effective ways to create fluent speakers in Native languages; and

**WHEREAS**, data shows that Native students who go through an immersion program perform substantially better academically than Native students who have not gone through such a program; and

**WHEREAS**, enacted in 1990, the Native American Languages Act (NALA) reversed the federal government's previous policy of eliminating Native American languages and instead, established a federal policy to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedoms of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, the Congress amended the Native American Programs Act to create a Native American languages grant program within the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2006, President Bush signed the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 into law (Public Law 109-394, H.R. 4766). The bill is named in honor of Ms. Esther Martinez, the great Tewa story teller of Ohkay Owingeh, and amends the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to allow the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, to award grants to support and strengthen Native American language immersion programs, including language nests, language survival schools, and language restoration programs.

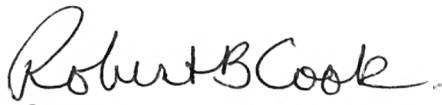
**WHEREAS**, the only federal agency that provides grants for Native American language immersion programs is ANA and funding through ANA has typically been less than \$400,000.00 a year to support language immersion programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed budget for ANA is \$46 million and the allocation for language grants under the Esther Martinez Act is \$2 million for FY 2009.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NIEA does hereby request an \$8 million increase to ANA over the FY 2009 proposed amount of \$46 million and that this \$8 million along with the \$2 million allocated in the President's FY 2009 budget be used for Native language immersion and restoration programs under the Esther Martinez Act.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-04**

**TITLE: INDIAN EDUCATION PROVISIONS FOR THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the U.S. federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Congress in anticipation of this key comprehensive legislation that affects all K-12 education, including Indian education and related programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), established in 1969, and membership, including ATNI, is actively reviewing the NCLB and is making specific recommendations to strengthen and clarify the legislation to ensure Native students, staff, parents, communities and tribes receive equitable and equal consideration and opportunities in the legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, specific provisions being addressed by the NIEA includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Improve, expand and increase funding of Title VII - Indian Education, to address the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian students;
2. Strengthen and clarify NCLB to provide instruction in Native Languages;
3. Reaffirm and strengthen the role of parents, families and tribes as the "first teachers" of their child(ren) and the role of Indian Education Parent Committees as the decision-makers in Indian Education opportunities.
4. Require Indian Education consultation and planning with the Parent Committee, Tribes

and community in the collection of culturally responsive data and research in the education of Native students;

5. Improve culturally responsive measurement system(s) for Adequate Yearly Progress;
6. Improve support for teachers of Native students in Title II and Title VII;
7. Improve cooperation among Tribes, States and the Federal Government;
8. Restore the Indian Education Technical Assistance and Training Center(s) to address the need for technical support.

**WHEREAS**, there is a also a need to address the unique issues and role of Native students, parents, communities and tribes under all other NCLB provisions, including Homeless Education, Migrant Education, Bi-lingual Education and Alcohol/Drug Prevention and Education; and

**WHEREAS**, these key legislative provisions promotes the sovereignty of tribes and will continue to strengthen the educational, social, health and economic well-being of our diverse Native communities, families and tribes.

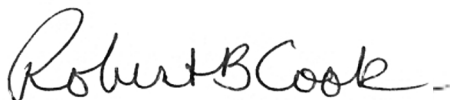
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association will advocate and promote the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians to strengthen and reaffirm Indian Education under the No Child Left Behind legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NIEA supports amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act that strengthens tribal and parent involvement in the education of Native students and promotes culturally based education, emphasizing Native languages and history instruction; and

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

#### CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 26, 2008 at which a quorum of the membership was present.



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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-09**

**TITLE: PREPARING NATIVE STUDENTS TO ENTER COLLEGE AND THE WORKFORCE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians, and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, Every school year, about 1.2 million students drop out of our nation's high schools, leaving almost one of every three freshmen without a high school diploma four years later (Swanson 2004).

**WHEREAS**, The national graduation rate for American Indian high school students was 49.3 percent in the 2003–04 school year, compared to 76.2 percent for white students (EPE Research Center 2007) and 61.8 percent in the 2005-06 school year, compared to 80.6 percent for white students (NCES 2008).

**WHEREAS**, While roughly 70% of high school students graduate on time, American Indian and Alaska Native students have only a 55% chance or less of graduating high school with a regular diploma (Greene and Winter, 2006).

**WHEREAS**, Only 44.6 percent of American Indian males and 50 percent of American Indian females graduated with a regular diploma in the 2003–04 school year (EPE Research Center 2007).

**WHEREAS**, Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to experience poverty, poor health, and incarceration during their adult lives.

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, NIEA has joined the Campaign for High School Equity and developed an initiative to focus on the dropout crisis in Indian Country.

**WHEREAS**, NIEA believes that in order for a student to be prepared for college and the workforce, that the student must first be engaged in school through a rigorous curriculum that incorporates culturally relevant components such as native languages, native traditions, and native histories.

**WHEREAS**, NIEA is advocating on both the national and state level for the redesign of the American high school and the promotion of instructional practices designed to meet the needs of Native students and prepare them for college and work including:

- Increased attention on the national, state, and district levels for Native students needs in states and school districts with high Native populations to increase retention and graduation rates of Native students.
- Supportive federal and state policies to increase Native student access to rigorous curriculum and inclusion of native languages, cultures and histories to improve student achievement and attainment.
- Quality schools that better serve Native students through access to rigorous curriculum, and adequate support to ensure they can meet higher expectations including culturally relevant curriculum.

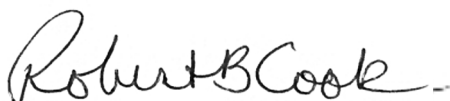
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, NIEA supports defining graduation rates according to a common standard and the use of longitudinal data systems and individual student identifiers to follow every child's path to graduation. NIEA also supports an NCLB accountability system that requires schools to increase their disaggregated data on graduation rates over time and to consider graduation rates on an equal footing with high quality assessments aligned to college and work readiness in determining school quality.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NIEA supports the integration of culturally based education methods as part of a high quality rigorous curriculum, will result in higher academic achievement among Native students and increased graduation rates, ultimately resulting in students better prepared to enter college and the workforce.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NIEA supports the NCLB focus on parent and community involvement through improving their knowledge, skills and understanding of standards based education and school accountability. NIEA supports federal and state policy in the promotion of standards based education as a family responsibility that helps children to achieve.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

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## NIEA RESOLUTION 08-10

### **TITLE: URGING OF REVERSAL OF PRESIDENT BUSH ADMINISTRATION INTERPRETATION OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS FOR FUNDING FY 2009 PROGRAMS THROUGH MARCH 6, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has the responsibility to enact legislation that appropriate funds for operation of the federal government prior to October 1 of the fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress failed to enact funding bills for FY 2009 for most departments of government, including the Department of the Interior, prior to October 1 of the fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration of President George W. Bush has determined that the CR means that his administration can fund programs at the lower of the amount he requested his budget or the amount appropriated for programs in FY 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision was verified by George Skibine, acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, on Monday, October 20, 2008, at the NCAI Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, in answer to a question from a Tribal leader about programs such as the Housing Improvement Program, general assistance and Johnson O'Malley, programs that have been cut from the President's budget in several successive years, but which have been refunded by Congress for each fiscal year in which the President has requested zero funding for these projects; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many other worthy programs in the Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs budget alone that benefit Indian Tribes and their citizens for which no funding was requested by the President in his FY 2009 budget or whose funding was drastically cut which are severely affected by the President's interpretation of the Congressional CR, and that have been continually funded by Congress for many years, such as United Tribes Technical College, Navajo Technical College, land consolidation, scholarships, road maintenance,

economic development efforts, contract support costs and other education and natural resource programs; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these long-standing programs are dependent on continuing funding being available for providing services and paying personnel responsible for providing those services, and do not have a funding cushion on which they can rely until Congress positively enacts appropriation legislation for the various departments of the United States government, and will have to lay off workers and diminish services until Congress acts, unless this issue is resolved immediately; and

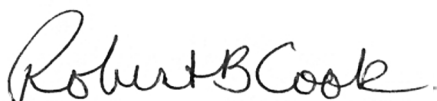
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association requests that the interpretation given by the George W. Bush administration of the Continuing Resolution of Congress funding the government through March 6, 2009 be reversed and that programs that have continuously been funded by Congress remain funded through March 6, 2009, including all of the programs mentioned herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association requests the appropriate Congressional representatives and Senators of the Appropriations Committee to further look into this matter and ensure that vital programs in Indian country as mentioned above are funded at their FY 2008 rate as provided in the Continuing Resolutions of Congress; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution, or until the funds for programs that were funding in FY 2008 are restored for the period of October 1, 2008 to March 6, 2009.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was duly considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 26, 2008 at which a quorum of the membership was present.



Robert Cook (2008-2009)  
President  
National Indian Education Association



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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-11**

**TITLE: NIEA TO SUPPORT EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY FOR THE NEGOTIATED RULE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY THE BIA**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Federal Register published October 22, 2008, the BIA is proposing to put together a negotiated rule committee to address the construction of facilities and other facility functions

**WHEREAS**, the BIA proposed committee has unequal representation from tribes across the United States; and

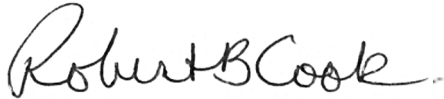
**WHEREAS**, the uniqueness of all tribes is inherent and the tribes demand equal representation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association supports all tribes in their uniqueness and request that the BIA review their proposed Rule Making Committee configuration for facilities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association requests that BIA amend their proposal in order to reach an acceptable representation from all the tribes affected by the proposed rules.

## CERTIFICATION

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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President  
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## NIEA RESOLUTION 08-12

**TITLE: NIEA TO DEMAND THAT THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS/EDUCATION FOLLOW THE FEDERAL STATUTE THAT REQUIRES THAT 100% OF THE FUNDS FOR FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE BE DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS BY OCTOBER 1ST OF EACH YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its' unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has "constrained" the facilities funds for the past numbers of years; and

**WHEREAS**, the BIA blames the constraintment on Congress's "continuing resolution;"

**WHEREAS**, the continuing resolution is a result of the BIA not submitting a budget that is acceptable to the Congress because they have withheld funds from the schools; and

**WHEREAS**, a federal statute made in 1981 and revised in April 1, 2008, states that 100% of the facilities, operations, and maintenance funds will be distributed by October 1 of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the BIA has recently held a teleconference where they reported that the funds would be again constrained by 43% of last year's funds;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association demands that the BIA immediately come into compliance with the federal statute and fund the schools' facilities, operations, and maintenance at 100%;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association demands that the BIA will immediately submit an acceptable budget for facilities, operation, and maintenance of all schools.

## CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 26, 2008 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-13**

**TITLE: SUPPORT MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF HEAD START AND AMERICAN INDIAN /ALASKA NATIVES ON PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ANNUALLY AS REQUIRED BY THE HEAD START ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start continues to subject American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start programs to federal performance standards without meaningful tribal consultation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start is mandated within the Head Start Act to hold consultation sessions each year in regions where Tribal Head Start programs are located; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start is mandated within the Head Start Act to hold a consultation session with Tribes and early education experts on the performance standard revisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start has not followed the mandates regarding the consultation session; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start is moving forward with the promulgation of the revised performance standards despite the requirement of tribal consultation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Head Start is taking a restrictive view and interpretation of new regulations to the detriment of tribal Head Start programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program are the best educators of our AI/AN children and understand the educational needs of AI/AN students; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association opposes the promulgation of the performance standards until the consultation requirements are fulfilled by the Office of Head Start; and

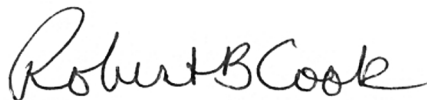
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Education Association supports annual meaningful consultation between the Office of Head Start and American Indian and Alaska Natives as required by the Head Start Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association urges its partners, the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Head Start Directors Association, to support this effort , and

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

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**NIEA RESOLUTION 08-14**

**TITLE: NIEA TO SUPPORT THE TRIBES AND TRIBAL COUNCILS IN DECLARING THEMSELVES THE STATE EDUCATION AGENCY (SEA) IN REGARD TO THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) REAUTHORIZATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Department of Education (DOE) signed in June of 2005 establishes that the OIEP can assume the responsibilities of the SEA in regard to NCLB; and

**WHEREAS**, nowhere in federal statute does it state that the BIA can assume the responsibilities of the SEA except in this memorandum; and

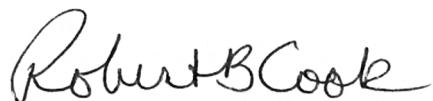
**WHEREAS**, NCLB will be reauthorized during this next administration;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association supports a change in NCLB that all Tribes and Tribal Councils through their Tribal Education Departments will be designated as the SEA for the schools on their reservations and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Indian Education Association supports the Tribes and Tribal Councils.

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Robert B. Cook (2008-2009)

President

National Indian Education Association



NIEA RESOLUTION 07-04

**TITLE:            RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN,  
AMERICAN INDIANS, AND ALASKA NATIVES**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association is committed to increasing educational opportunities and resources for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students while protecting Native cultural and linguistic traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association is the largest and oldest Indian education organization in the nation and strives to keep Indian Country moving toward educational equity; and

**WHEREAS**, state charter school laws help establish creative and innovative Native Charter school options for many rural reservation and urban Native communities in states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Oregon, Utah, North Carolina, California, and Hawaii; and

**WHEREAS**, through established charter school laws, tribal officials, parents, and educators are developing schools that serve the unique circumstances, needs and aspirations of their children, and creating a positive school climate where Native culture and lifestyles are respected and used in teaching and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native schools represent the potential for tribal and other Indian communities to restore educational governance and decision-making at the community level; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native charter schools are public schools developed by parents, teachers, and community members, authorized by local and/or state school boards to develop creative, innovative, and flexible ways of educating children; and

**WHEREAS**, most Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native schools are designed to incorporate language and culture, making the curriculum relevant to the community, incorporating the voices and lessons of elders, leaders, and community members knowledgeable of the history, philosophy, art, and the belief systems of Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native charter schools assert self-determination through local or state school board authority helping community members determine what is expected of students and what is expected of teachers, school officials; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native charter schools can provide academic, creative, and community-based experiential opportunities providing young adults to be

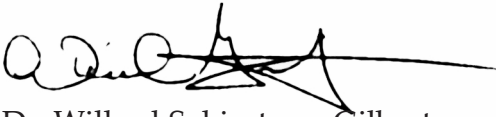
leaders knowledgeable about community needs in helping to build sustainable systems for progress and development; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Indian Education Association recognizes that the Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native Charter schools provide important school choice options for Native communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** supports training opportunities and support systems for Native Hawaiian, Native American, and Alaska Native Charter schools through workshops, forums, and networking sessions.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 26, 2008 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association



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NIEA RESOLUTION 07-06

**TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIVE CHILDREN'S AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, improving the over well being of Native American children and youth with regard to their social emotional mental and physical health should be an important national priority given the current status and situation of Native children in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations involved with Native American children should be collaboratively involved with each other to develop strategies and implement sound cultural appropriate approaches related to the development of Native children; and

**WHEREAS**, educators and school communities play a pivotal role working within tribal and Indian communities to assist in the development of local partnerships, given their responsibility to provide educational services, daily contact with Native American students, and relationships with parents and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the well being of Native American children is a significant and central Tribal sovereignty issue. Tribal governments have a primary concern for the well being of Native American children and youth in representing the needs of parents and families and have a central role in creating collaborations and culturally appropriate approaches that can insure the future for the tribe through the education and well being of it children.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** will work with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), and other organizations to improve the social, emotional, mental and physical health of Native American children and improve the learning capability and potential of Native American children through the work of the Native Children's Agenda which will be jointly developed by NIEA, NCAI, NIHB, NICWA and other partners.



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NIEA RESOLUTION 07-08

**TITLE: SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND FULL FUNDING OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American/Alaska Native students are more likely to drop out of school. score lower on 4th and 8th grade National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) reading and math tests and are the least likely to complete a core academic track or take advanced academic courses in high school; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are significantly less likely than their peers to earn at least a bachelor's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, many schools are ill-equipped to accommodate culturally appropriate programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) threatens Native American languages and cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are being cut that help fund educators to teach cultural languages because of pressures to comply with the letter of NCLB; and

**WHEREAS**, learning in a native language not only does not interfere with the development of English skills but actually promotes greater achievement in English; and

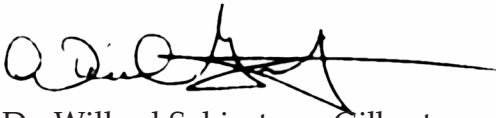
**WHEREAS**, the Native American Language Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-477) states that it is the policy of the United States government to encourage and support the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** urges the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and other national educational organizations to fully support opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students to retain and use Native American languages. with Native Language instruction.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association supports the full funding of Native American language programs.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 25, 2007 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association



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NIEA RESOLUTION 07-09

**TITLE:            SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian Nations and Tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or no-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA acknowledges the Lukachukai Community Board of Education, Inc. is a Grant School operating under Public Law 100-297, Tribally Controlled School Act; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA recognizes that according to Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Facility Management & Construction report fifteen (15) schools in Indian Country need to be completed for construction and Congress mandated that it is not prudent to add new schools for construction activities until the remaining schools are completed; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association fully supports funds for total school replacement construction for any schools on the qualified Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction list, including the Lukachukai Community School.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association fully supports Lukachukai Community Board of Education, Inc., in requesting Congressional Appropriation Committee to adequately fund education construction program to complete the remaining fifteen (15) schools.

**CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was duly considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 25, 2007 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association



**NIEA RESOLUTION 07-10**

**TITLE:            SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION IN THE  
REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians, and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is currently being reviewed by the United States Congress in anticipation of this key comprehensive legislation that affects all K-12 education, including Indian Education and related programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and membership is actively reviewing the NCLB and is making specific recommendations to strengthen the legislation to ensure Native students, staff, parents, communities and tribes receive equitable and equal consideration throughout the legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, specific provisions being addressed by the NIEA includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Improving and expanding Title VII – Indian Education, to address the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian students;
2. Improving cooperation among Tribes, States and the Federal Government;
3. Strengthen NCLB to provide support for instruction in Native American Languages;
4. Improving support for teachers of Native students in Title II and Title VII;
5. Improving opportunities for parents, families and Tribes and other Native communities to participate in the education of Native children;
6. Improving the measurement system for Adequate Yearly Progress;
7. Requiring the collection of data and research on the education of Native children;
8. Increasing Funding for NCLB, especially Title VII – Indian Education; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a also a need to address the unique issues and role of Native students, parents,

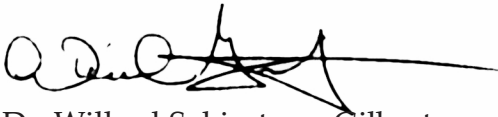
communities and tribes under the NCLB provisions for Homeless Education, Migrant Education and Alcohol/Drug Prevention and Education; and

**WHEREAS**, these key legislative provisions promotes the sovereignty of tribes and will continue to strengthen the educational, social, health and economic well-being of our diverse Native communities and tribes.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** will advocate and promote the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians through the NIEA legislative priorities to strengthen Native education under the No Child Left Behind legislation.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 25, 2007 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

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Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association



**NATIONAL  
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EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION**

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NIEA RESOLUTION 07-11

**TITLE:            SUPPORT TO INCREASE IMPACT AID FUNDS UNDER THE  
REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians, and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is currently being reviewed by the United States Congress in anticipation of this key comprehensive legislation that affects all K-12 education, including educational opportunities for Indian students; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA) and the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools are actively reviewing NCLB and are making specific recommendations to Title VIII, Impact Aid, to increase funds that impact Native students and their communities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** will support an increase to Impact Aid funding under the No Child Left Behind legislation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 25, 2007 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association



NIEA Resolution 07-12

**TITLE:** Recognition of the unique status of Native American Languages in the United States, and accommodate current federal policy regarding Native American Languages promote imminent Federal Education Law regarding the Unique Status of Native American Languages

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through the unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, Congress passed the Native American Languages Act (NALA) which established a unique federal policy relative to use in publicly supported education of the Native American languages spoken in this country before 1492; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been cases since the passage of NALA in which Native American student use and instruction through Native American languages has been restricted in federally supported education programs due to lack of specific language relative to the provisions of NALA and other federal legislation regarding Native American Languages Federally funded education programs including the No Child Left Behind Act;

Now therefore be it resolved that the National Indian Education Association calls upon the United States Congress to continue supporting the rights of Native communities and tribes to develop and use their indigenous languages and that federal and public schools and other educational institutions receiving federal educational funding be held accountable for any failure to support this national policy including clarification in the imminent reauthorization of No Child Left Behind to assure that Native American students speaking Native American languages have access to Federally supported education when using and learning Native American languages in educational programs funded by the federal government;

Be it further resolved that the National Indian Education Association directs its governing board to distribute this emergency resolution to the members of Congress drawing attention to any specific areas No Child Left Behind inconsistent with the federal policy established in the 1990 Native American Languages Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. D. ...', is written over a horizontal line.



**NIEA Resolution 07-16**

**TITLE: Support for Tribal State Education Agency (SEAs), Tribal-centered adequate yearly progress (AYP) measures, and Tribal language and culture in No Child Left Behind Act Reauthorization**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, through the unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation, in exercising its sovereign and self-determination rights, seeks to establish U.S. Department of Education-sanctioned "State Education Agency" (SEA) status to develop its own educational system and to fully control its educational destiny, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sovereignty in Navajo Education Act, adopted by the Navajo Nation Council of 2005, seeks to create assessment tools in the Navajo language, including educational standards and curricula regarding culture, history, government, and *ke'e* (chapter development) for children, families, and communities, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for public school jurisdictions of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah and the Navajo Nation to enter in cooperative agreements to participate in the Navajo Nation's accountability system, and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation prefers genuine bilingual programs to include comprehensive language arts skills and competencies for students who are not fully proficient in English and/or students who are not fully proficient in the Navajo language, and

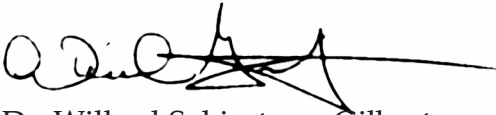
**WHEREAS**, schooling must include tribal educational philosophy, identity, history, civics and government, and social studies using a local community control approach.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association will support efforts of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, to seek State Education Agency (SEA) functions, to research and develop tribal-centered Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measures, and

to infuse Native language and culture, where appropriate, into all aspects of schooling for Native students as part of No Child Left Behind Act reauthorization.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the National Indian Education Association on October 25, 2007 at which a quorum of the membership was present.

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Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert  
President (2007-2008)  
National Indian Education Association

