



Bureau of Indian Education

Mission

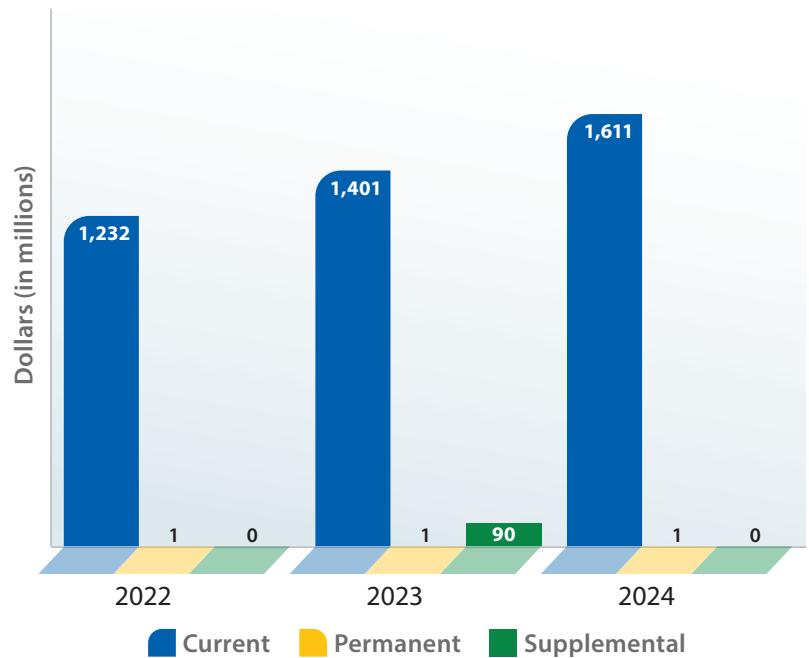
The mission of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is to provide students at BIE-funded schools with a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares them with the knowledge and skills to equip them for success in the opportunities of tomorrow, become healthy and prosperous individuals, and lead their communities and sovereign nations to a thriving future that preserves their unique cultural identities.

Budget Overview

The 2024 President’s Budget for BIE is \$1.6 billion in current appropriations, a \$209.2 million increase from the 2023 enacted level. The budget includes key investments to strengthen BIE’s autonomy as a Federal agency and improve local services for tribally controlled and bureau-operated schools while also advancing equity for historically underserved Tribal communities. BIE estimates the budget supports staffing of 3,264 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2024.

The United States has a trust and treaty responsibility to provide eligible Indian students with a quality education. BIE serves as a capacity builder and service provider to support Tribes in delivering culturally appropriate education with high academic standards to allow students across Indian Country to achieve success. BIE funding supports classroom instruction, student transportation, Native language development programs, cultural

BIE Funding



enrichment, gifted and talented programs, behavioral health and wellness services, school safety, security, and education technology investments. In addition, BIE maintains facility operations and maintenance at BIE-funded schools operated by Tribes or the bureau. In some schools—mostly in remote sites—funding also supports residential costs. BIE operates 2 postsecondary institutions, administers grants for 29 tribally controlled colleges and universities, funds 2 Tribal technical colleges, and supports multiple scholarship programs for highly qualified Native American students.

The 2024 budget invests in improved educational opportunities and service delivery for Native American students from their earliest years through college. BIE continues to strengthen itself as an independent bureau and is developing a strategic plan for 2024 and beyond to create a roadmap for the future to support Tribes in educating their youth and to deliver a world-class and culturally appropriate education.



- The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) provides education services to 45,000 students, with an average daily membership of 40,000 students in 23 States, 169 elementary and secondary schools, and 14 dormitories.
- Currently, 128—or 70 percent of—BIE-funded elementary schools, secondary schools, and dormitories are tribally controlled and operate under the direction of individual Tribal governments.
- BIE also provides funding to 33 Tribal colleges, universities, and postsecondary schools.

Operation of Indian Education Programs

The 2024 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$1.2 billion, providing resources for BIE’s core mission to support bureau-operated and tribally controlled schools and administering grants to Tribal institutions of higher education.

Elementary and Secondary Programs

The request includes \$925.5 million, a \$42.8 million increase over the 2023 enacted level, for operating the entire BIE elementary and secondary school system—169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories—by providing educational services to approximately 45,000 students in 23 States. Funds support the basic and supplemental education programs at BIE-funded schools, student transportation, facility operations, and maintenance.

The 2024 request includes targeted funding to improve Indian student academic outcomes, address



Student Powwow at Fond du Lac Ojibwe School.

BIE Photo.

maintenance needs, support expanded preschool and Native language programs, and provide pay parity for Tribal teachers while fully funding projected Tribal Grant Support Costs. The budget provides \$508.7 million, a \$27.0 million increase over 2023 enacted, for Indian School Equalization Program funds to enhance opportunities and outcomes in the classroom, provide improved instructional services, and support increased teacher quality, recruitment, and retention. The request level of \$22.1 million, including a \$500,000 program increase, for Education Program Enhancements supports professional development for teachers, advances the quality of in-classroom instruction, and incorporates improved Native language and culture programs in classrooms. Early Child and Family Development funding of \$26.1 million enables BIE to provide preschool opportunities at BIE-funded schools.

Facilities Operations and Maintenance is funded at \$160.1 million, a \$5.6 million increase over the 2023 enacted amount, and includes investments to keep pace with operational cost increases and support the timely maintenance and replacement of equipment at BIE schools. The budget also includes \$22.6 million, including a \$2.0 million program increase, for the Johnson-O’Malley program, which is authorized to support the individualized educational needs of eligible Indian students enrolled in public schools and nonsectarian private schools.

The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities and includes \$98.7 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools. This level of funding supports 100 percent of the estimated requirement.

To further support sovereignty, the budget proposes a provision allowing for the expansion of more than one grade at BIE-funded schools with a K-2 or K-4 structure.

Postsecondary Programs

The request includes \$189.6 million for Postsecondary Programs, a \$6.0 million increase over 2023 enacted. The 2024 budget continues recognition of the critical role Tribal postsecondary institutions have in empowering Indian students and promoting equity for Tribal communities. These institutions are on or near reservations; they directly serve Tribal communities with culturally relevant education and career pathways in a supportive environment. Postsecondary education of Tribal members remains an essential component in the economic development of many Tribes.

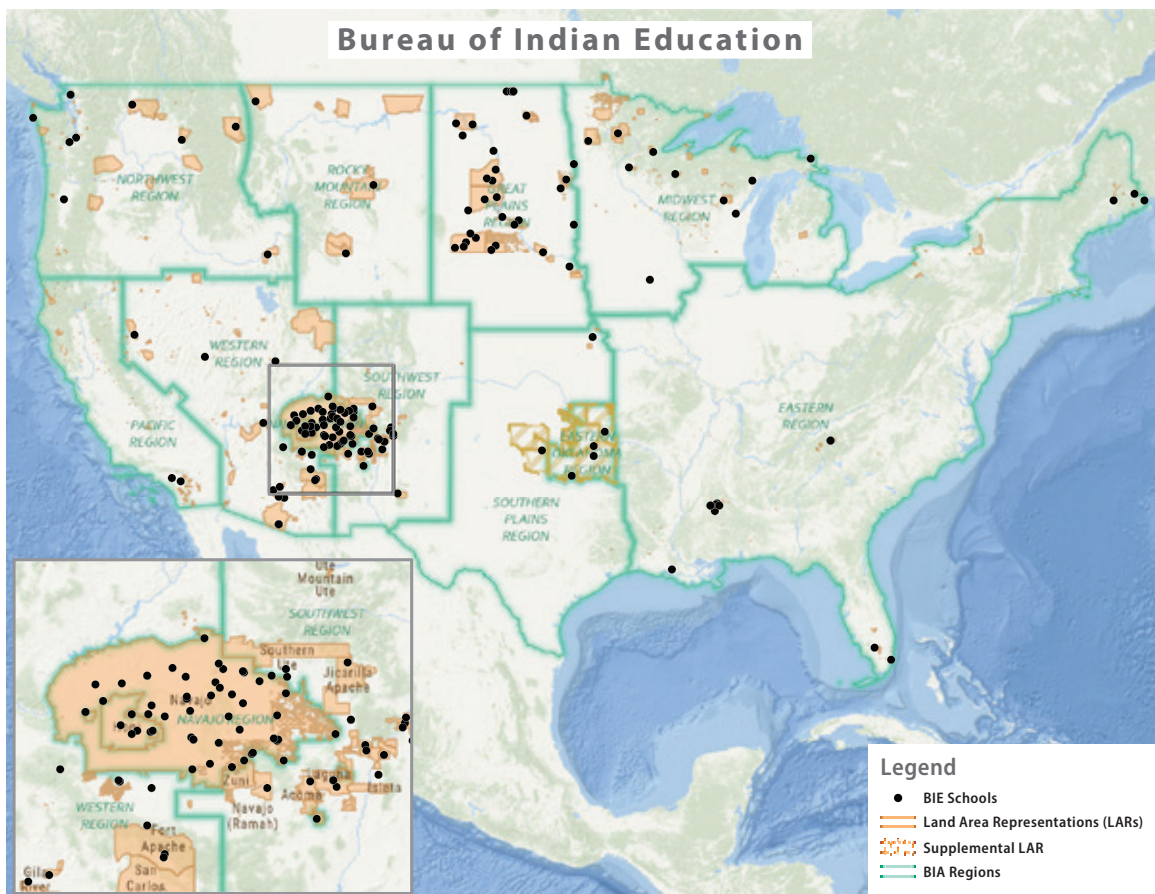
The budget will provide \$34.9 million, including a \$2.0 million program increase, for BIE-operated Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute;

\$87.9 million for grants to 29 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs); and \$10.7 million, a \$1.5 million increase over the 2023 enacted level, for grants for 2 Tribal Technical Colleges.

Postsecondary Programs fund multiple scholarship programs, including \$43.4 million for the Scholarships and Adult Education program to improve educational opportunities and serve a larger population of qualified Native American students. The program promotes equity through educational grants to Tribal communities, which have been historically underserved and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Education Management

The budget includes \$79.3 million, an increase of \$12.1 million over 2023 enacted, for education management and information technology (IT) to optimize learning opportunities for students of all ages. Education Program Management (EPM) funding supports ongoing improvements in high-priority functional areas, including acquisition,



school safety, performance tracking, and technical support to schools in the field. Other management activities include data collection, analysis, and reporting; financial and budget functions; oversight and coordination of major facility repairs; and management of grant applications. BIE IT includes the Native American Student Information System, wide area network infrastructure, and general support systems used by BIE-funded schools.

EPM initiatives in 2024 include the continued implementation of a School Operations Office of Self-Determination to develop Tribal capacity and promote maximum Indian participation in educational programs and services; the Justice40 Initiative to promote environmental justice; and BIE's Social Emotional Learning project to develop a national curriculum to support behavioral health and wellness programs at BIE-funded schools. The funding in 2024 will also allow EPM to calculate and report on methodologies for maximizing the benefits to underserved communities.

The budget proposes \$33.7 million, an increase of \$5.8 million over the 2023 enacted level, for Education IT to support the ongoing costs of distance learning and enhanced classroom technology. BIE continues to collaborate with Tribes and communities to alleviate ongoing strains imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on BIE students and their families, teachers, administrators, and other staff members in K–12 schools and at TCUs. The 2024 budget will enable BIE to leverage ongoing infrastructure investments in new technology and operational capabilities at BIE-funded schools, including the new Education Learning Management System, by supporting comprehensive online delivery of educational courses to students and professional development



Youth stickball at Chickasaw Children's Village.

BIE Photo.

opportunities for teachers. Education IT resources will continue the annual learning software subscriptions and licenses, support contract extensions needed to maintain this investment, and support educational IT personnel costs for remote learning and additional broadband capabilities.

The Payments for Tribal Leases are accounted for in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget and used to administer BIA and BIE leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The budget reflects the Administration's support for the principles of Tribal self-determination and strengthening Tribal communities across Indian Country by proposing to reclassify 105(l) leases as current mandatory spending in 2024. This funding reclassification will provide Tribes with certainty in meeting these ongoing needs through dedicated funding sources.

Tribal Priority Allocations

Tribal Priority Allocations (TPAs) give Tribes the opportunity to further Indian self-determination by establishing their priorities and reallocating Federal funds among programs in this budget category. The 2024 BIE budget includes TPA funding of \$67.3 million.

Education Construction

The 2024 budget includes \$416.2 million, an increase of \$148.3 million over 2023 enacted, in annual funding for Education Construction to replace and repair school facilities and address deferred maintenance needs at campuses across the BIE school system. This funding includes substantial investments to address the climate crisis with more sustainable BIE infrastructure. Whenever feasible, BIE facilities projects incorporate techniques to reduce energy and water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare the facilities for the predicted effects of climate change. The Indian Affairs (IA) Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management—in close coordination with BIE—manages the Site Assessment and Capital Investment (SACI) Program, a comprehensive approach to assess the conditions of bureau-funded schools and prioritize requirements for campus improvements. The SACI Program follows formalized procedures that respect Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and result in consensus agreements with schools, Tribes, and IA for major renovations and new construction projects. The SACI Program has developed a long-term facilities plan that is continuously updated and adjusts to changes in education construction

funding and facility evaluation or selection criteria. Replacing or repairing BIE-funded schools is a high priority that has produced tangible results, with two new campuses opened to students in 2022.

The proposed \$252.5 million for Replacement School Construction, a \$136.0 million increase over the 2023 enacted amount, and \$23.9 million for Replacement Facility Construction are critical to ensuring that all Native students can develop in an environment conducive to quality educational achievement. With the Replacement School Construction, Replacement Facility Construction, and Great American Outdoors Act (Public Law 116–152) funding anticipated in 2024, BIE expects to support planning, design, and construction work at nine BIE schools; final allocations are pending completion of the design phase and refined cost estimates for each school. Appropriate housing is a key element for educational staffing, especially at schools in remote locations. An additional \$139.8 million is included for other housing and facilities repair programs, including a \$9.7 million program increase for facilities improvement and repair.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$25.6 million are fully funded.



Kindergarten promotion ceremony at Baca /Dlo'ay Azhi Community School within the Navajo Nation.

BIE Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of Indian Education Programs	2,583	1,133,552	2,712	1,194,389	+129	+60,837
Education Construction	11	358,352	14	416,212	+3	+57,860
Subtotal, Current	2,594	1,491,904	2,726	1,610,601	+132	+118,697
Permanent						
Gifts and Donations	7	1,000	7	1,000	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	7	1,000	7	1,000	0	0
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Reimbursable	531	0	531	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	531	0	531	0	0	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION	3,132	1,492,904	3,264	1,611,601	+132	+118,697

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES
By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)				
ISEP Formula Funds	440,784	481,636	508,657	+27,021
ISEP Program Adjustments	5,844	6,539	7,300	+761
Education Program Enhancements	16,513	21,025	22,131	+1,106
Tribal Education Departments	5,003	5,889	5,889	0
Student Transportation	59,616	70,007	74,086	+4,079
Early Childhood and Family Development	21,655	25,267	26,091	+824
Tribal Grant Support Costs	89,450	95,822	98,695	+2,873
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)	638,865	706,185	742,849	+36,664
Elementary and Secondary Programs				
Facilities Operations	70,189	80,888	83,518	+2,630
Facilities Maintenance	62,421	73,544	76,543	+2,999
Juvenile Detention Center Education	554	555	0	-555
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants (TPA)	21,198	21,570	22,630	+1,060
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary Programs	154,362	176,557	182,691	+6,134

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs *(continued)*

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Postsecondary Programs (forward funded)				
Haskell and SIPI	28,622	30,325	34,870	+4,545
Tribal Colleges and Universities.....	76,510	87,926	87,926	0
Tribal Technical Colleges	8,151	9,156	10,665	+1,509
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs (forward funded).....	113,283	127,407	133,461	+6,054
Postsecondary Programs				
Tribal Colleges and Universities Supplements (TPA).....	1,220	1,220	1,220	0
Scholarships and Adult Education (TPA)	40,541	43,549	43,445	-104
Special Higher Education Scholarships	4,992	4,992	4,992	0
Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund	4,450	6,450	6,450	0
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs.....	51,203	56,211	56,107	-104
Education Management				
Education Program Management.....	36,063	39,291	45,569	+6,278
Education IT	23,825	27,901	33,712	+5,811
Subtotal, Education Management	59,888	67,192	79,281	+12,089
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o transfer)	1,017,601	1,133,552	1,194,389	+60,837
Other Transfer	-50,280	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ transfer)	967,321	1,133,552	1,194,389	+60,837

APPROPRIATION: Education Construction

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Replacement School Construction.....	115,504	116,504	252,504	+136,000
Replacement Facility Construction	23,935	23,935	23,935	0
Replacement/New Employee Housing	1,000	1,500	4,000	+2,500
Employee Housing Repair.....	13,589	13,595	13,595	0
Facilities Improvement and Repair.....	95,302	96,353	106,178	+9,825
Tribal Colleges Facilities Improvement and Repair	15,000	16,000	16,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental)	264,330	267,887	416,212	+148,325
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)	0	+90,465	0	-90,465
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental).....	264,330	358,352	416,212	+57,860

