



# Bureau of Indian Education

## Mission

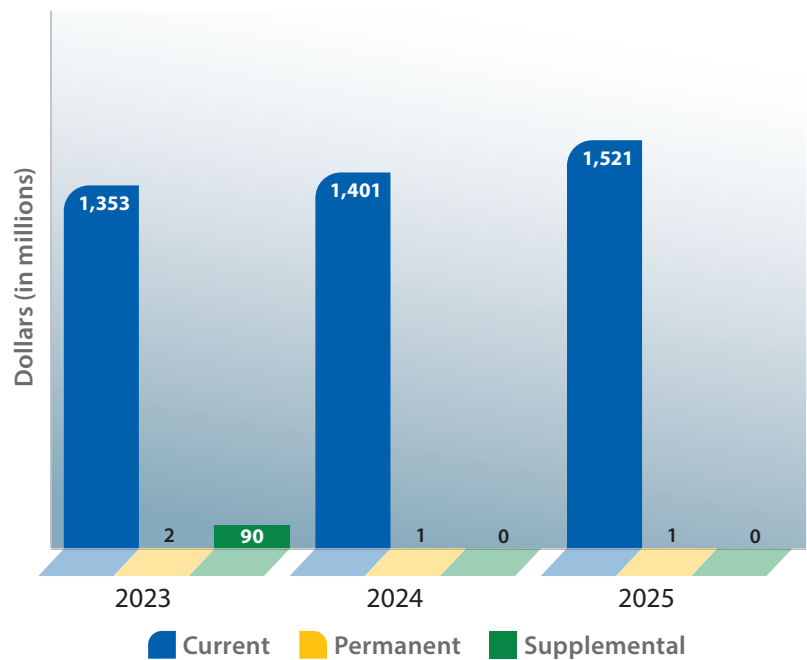
The mission of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is to provide students at BIE-funded schools with a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares them with the knowledge and skills to equip them for success in the opportunities of tomorrow, become healthy and prosperous individuals, and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

## Budget Overview

The 2025 President’s Budget for BIE is \$1.5 billion in current appropriations, a \$119.5 million increase from the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) 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 2,983 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025.

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. Funding for BIE supports classroom instruction, student transportation, Native language

## BIE Funding



development programs, cultural enrichment, gifted and talented programs, behavioral health and wellness services, school safety, security, and education technology investments. In addition, BIE conducts 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 two postsecondary institutions, administers grants for 29 tribally controlled colleges and universities, funds two Tribal technical colleges, and supports multiple scholarship programs for highly qualified Native American students.

The 2025 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 to create a roadmap for the future to support Tribes in educating their youth and to deliver a world-class and culturally appropriate education.



- BIE provides education services to 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 other postsecondary schools.

### Operation of Indian Education Programs

The 2025 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$77.1 million over the 2024 CR level, 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 \$941.7 million, a \$59.0 million increase over the 2024 CR 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 40,000 students in 23 States. Funds support the basic and supplemental education programs at BIE-funded schools, student transportation, facility operations, and maintenance.

Targeted funding is included in the 2025 request to improve Native American student academic outcomes, address maintenance needs, support early childhood education and Native language programs, and provide pay parity for Tribal teachers while fully funding projected Tribal Grant Support Costs. The budget provides \$518.1 million, a \$36.5 million increase over the 2024 CR level, for Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) formula funds to enhance opportunities and outcomes in the classroom, provide improved instructional services, and support increased teacher quality, recruitment, and retention. The ISEP funds serve as the primary funding source for educational programs at BIE-funded schools. The request level of \$22.5 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



A student stops and smiles during a physical education class at T'iis Nazbas Community School in Teec Nos Pos, AZ.

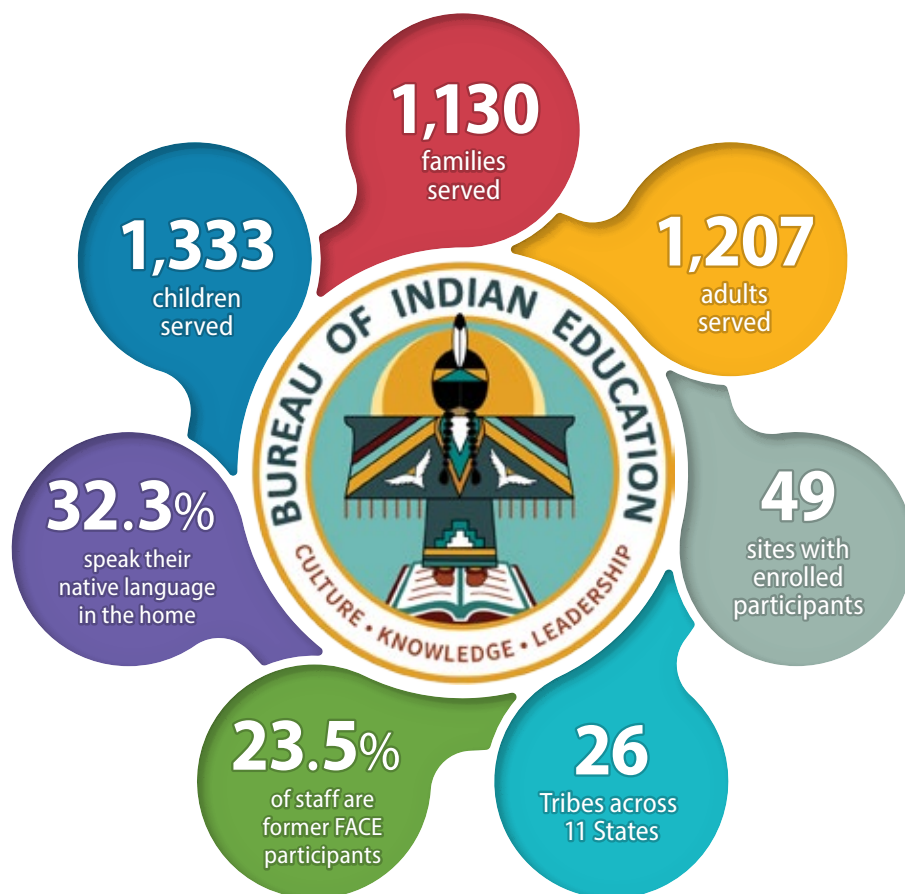
BIE Photo.

culture programs in classrooms. Early Child and Family Development funding of \$26.6 million enables BIE to provide preschool opportunities at BIE-funded schools.

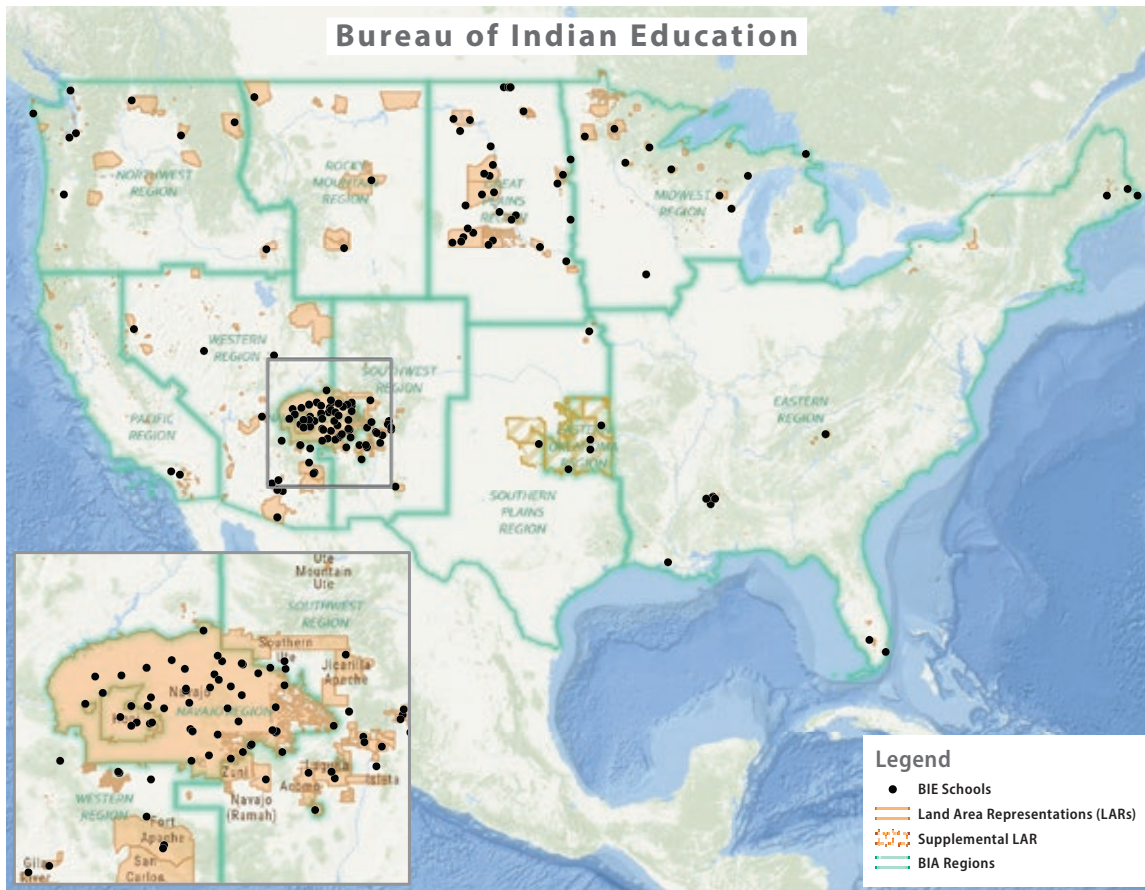
Student Transportation is funded at \$75.2 million, including a \$2.0 million program increase, to help schools pay for bus leases, fuel, maintenance, and driver safety trainings. Facilities Operations and Maintenance is funded at \$162.6 million and includes investments to keep pace with operational 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 by providing remedial instruction, counseling, and other culturally relevant programs.

The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities and includes \$100.7 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools. These funds are designed to ensure BIE provides the necessary administrative costs that accompany the operation and management of tribally controlled 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.



### Family and Child Education (FACE) in the 2022-2023 school year



### Postsecondary Programs

The request includes \$191.1 million for Postsecondary Programs, a \$7.5 million increase over the 2024 CR level. The 2025 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. In many instances, Tribal Colleges and Universities are the primary means available for Indian students to receive a postsecondary degree.

The budget will provide \$36.2 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 \$1.6 million increase over the 2024 CR level, for grants for two Tribal Technical Colleges.

Postsecondary Programs fund multiple scholarship programs, including \$43.5 million for the Scholarships and Adult Education program to improve educational opportunities and serve a larger population of qualified Native American students. The program improves the success of students at each educational level by providing financial assistance for eligible students and increases engagement with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-related initiatives.

### Education Management

The budget includes \$77.9 million, an increase of \$10.7 million over the 2024 CR level, 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 Education IT includes the Native American Student Information System, wide area network infrastructure, and general support systems used by BIE-funded schools.

EPM initiatives in 2025 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 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 2025 will also allow EPM to calculate and report on methodologies for maximizing the benefits of self-determination and student wellness-focused programs to underserved communities.

The budget proposes \$29.7 million, including a program increase of \$1.5 million, for Education IT to support the ongoing costs of distance learning and enhanced classroom technology. The 2025 budget will support IT infrastructure and connectivity requirements, including wide area

network and internet service delivery, updates to enterprise software licensing, and BIE's Education Learning Management System operations.

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 (Public Law 93-638). 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 2026. 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 2025 BIE budget includes TPA funding of \$67.4 million.



A student studies the water cycle during science class at Isleta Elementary School in Isleta, NM.

*BIE Photo.*

## Education Construction

The 2025 budget includes \$310.2 million, an increase of \$42.3 million over the 2024 CR level, 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 (SA-CI) Program, a comprehensive approach to assess the conditions of bureau-funded schools and prioritize requirements for campus improvements. The SA-CI 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 SA-CI 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.

The proposed \$155.7 million for Replacement School Construction, a \$39.2 million increase over the 2024 CR level, and \$23.9 million for Replacement Facility Construction are critical to ensuring 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 through 2025, BIE expects to support planning, design, and construction work at four BIE schools and address inflationary cost increases at schools funded in prior years. 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 \$130.6 million is included for other housing and facilities repair programs, including a \$2.5 million program increase for new employee housing.

## Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$17.9 million are fully funded. The request also includes \$26.2 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow BIE to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.



Quileute Tribal School in La Push, WA.

BIE Photo.

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Operation of Indian Education Programs .....	2,361	1,133,552	2,434	1,210,690	+73	+77,138
Education Construction .....	11	267,887	11	310,236	0	+42,349
Subtotal, Current .....	2,372	1,401,439	2,445	1,520,926	+73	+119,487
<b>Permanent</b>						
Gifts and Donations .....	7	1,000	7	1,000	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent .....	7	1,000	7	1,000	0	0
<b>Allocation and Reimbursable</b>						
Reimbursable .....	531	0	531	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable .....	531	0	531	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>1,402,439</b>	<b>2,983</b>	<b>1,521,926</b>	<b>+73</b>	<b>+119,487</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

### APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
<b>Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)</b>				
ISEP Formula Funds .....	481,636	481,636	518,127	+36,491
ISEP Program Adjustments .....	6,539	6,539	7,450	+911
Education Program Enhancements .....	21,025	21,025	22,528	+1,503
Tribal Education Departments .....	5,889	5,889	5,889	0
Student Transportation .....	70,007	70,007	75,247	+5,240
Early Childhood and Family Development .....	25,267	25,267	26,566	+1,299
Tribal Grant Support Costs .....	95,822	95,822	100,716	+4,894
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary (forward funded) .....	706,185	706,185	756,523	+50,338
<b>Elementary and Secondary Programs</b>				
Facilities Operations .....	80,888	80,888	84,513	+3,625
Facilities Maintenance .....	73,544	73,544	78,039	+4,495
Juvenile Detention Center Education .....	555	555	0	-555
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants (TPA) .....	21,570	21,570	22,619	+1,049
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary Programs .....	176,557	176,557	185,171	+8,614
<b>Postsecondary Programs (forward funded)</b>				
Haskell and SIPI .....	30,325	30,325	36,234	+5,909
Tribal Colleges and Universities .....	87,926	87,926	87,926	0
Tribal Technical Colleges .....	9,156	9,156	10,721	+1,565
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs (forward funded) .....	127,407	127,407	134,881	+7,474

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

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
<b>Postsecondary Programs</b>				
Tribal Colleges and Universities				
Supplements (TPA) .....	1,220	1,220	1,220	0
Scholarships and Adult Education (TPA) .....	43,549	43,549	43,539	-10
Special Higher Education Scholarships .....	4,992	4,992	4,992	0
Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund .....	6,450	6,450	6,450	0
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs .....	56,211	56,211	56,201	-10
<b>Education Management</b>				
Education Program Management .....	39,291	39,291	48,253	+8,962
Education IT .....	27,901	27,901	29,661	+1,760
Subtotal, Education Management .....	67,192	67,192	77,914	+10,722
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o transfer) .....	1,133,552	1,133,552	1,210,690	+77,138
Other Transfer .....	-48,662	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ transfer) .....	1,084,890	1,133,552	1,210,690	+77,138

**APPROPRIATION: Education Construction**

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Replacement School Construction .....	116,504	116,504	155,690	+39,186
Replacement Facility Construction .....	23,935	23,935	23,935	0
Replacement/New Employee Housing .....	1,500	1,500	4,000	+2,500
Employee Housing Repair .....	13,595	13,595	14,208	+613
Facilities Improvement and Repair .....	96,353	96,353	96,403	+50
Tribal Colleges Facilities				
Improvement and Repair .....	16,000	16,000	16,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental) .....	267,887	267,887	310,236	+42,349
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) .....	+90,465	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental) .....	358,352	267,887	310,236	+42,349