



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 for success in the opportunities of tomorrow, to become healthy and prosperous individuals, and to lead their communities and sovereign nations to a thriving future that preserves their unique cultural identities.

Budget Overview

The 2026 President's Budget for BIE is \$916.1 million in current appropriations.

The United States has a trust and treaty responsibility to provide eligible Indian students with a quality education. BIE



A graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

BIE Photo.



Crowning ceremony for the 2025 Daffodil Princess at Chief Leschi Schools in Puyallup, Washington.

BIE Photo.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION Facts



- BIE provides education services to an average daily enrollment 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.

serves as a capacity builder and service provider to support Tribes in delivering culturally appropriate, academically rigorous education that allows students across Indian Country to achieve success. The BIE elementary and secondary school system includes 169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories. It provides educational services to approximately 40,000 students in 23 States.

Operation of Indian Education Programs

The 2026 Budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$868.0 million,

providing resources for BIE's core mission to support bureau-operated and tribally controlled primary and secondary schools, alongside Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

Education Construction

The 2026 Budget includes \$48.1 million in current appropriations for Education Construction to improve the safety and functionality of facilities at campuses across the BIE school system.



A BIE class is all smiles.

BIE Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2026 Request with 2025 CR

| | 2025 CR ^{1/} | 2026 Request |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Current | | |
| Operation of Indian Education Programs | 1,131,617 | 867,992 |
| Education Construction | 234,725 | 48,114 |
| Total, Bureau of Indian Education | 1,366,342 | 916,106 |

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs

| | 2024 Actual | 2025 Notional ^{1/} | 2026 Request |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Elementary and Secondary (<i>forward funded</i>) | 706,185 | 706,185 | 675,228 |
| Elementary and Secondary Programs | 174,971 | 174,971 | 125,262 |
| Postsecondary Programs (<i>forward funded</i>) | 127,407 | 127,407 | 22,117 |
| Postsecondary Programs | 55,868 | 55,868 | 0 |
| Education Management | 67,186 | 67,186 | 45,385 |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION | 1,131,617 | 1,131,617 | 867,992 |

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Education Construction

| | 2024 Actual | 2025 Notional ^{1/} | 2026 Request |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION | 234,725 | 234,725 | 48,114 |

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

