



# BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

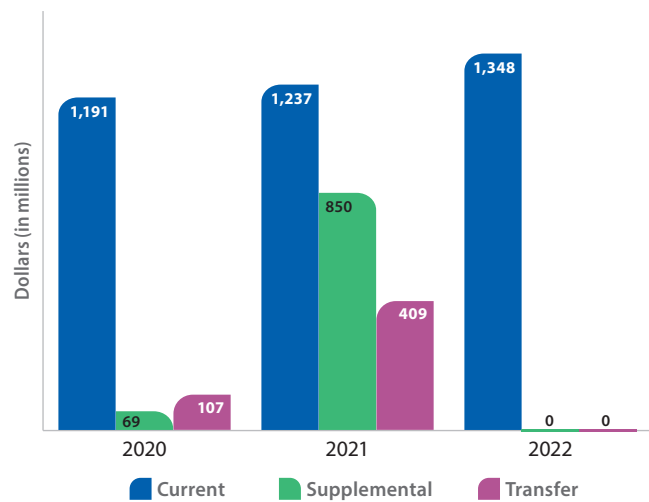
**Mission**—The mission of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is to provide students at BIE-funded schools with a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to flourish in the opportunities of tomorrow, become healthy and successful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

**Budget Overview**—The 2022 President’s budget for BIE is \$1.3 billion in current appropriations. 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. BIE estimates the budget supports staffing of 3,244 full-time equivalents in 2022.

These investments are complemented by the Department of Education 2022 budget proposal to expand programs that directly affect Tribal communities, including significantly increased funding for Title I grants that benefit high-poverty schools and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants. In addition, BIE will continue to leverage the \$850.0 million made available through the American Rescue Plan as permanent funding in 2021 to ensure that Native American students do not unduly bear the burden of the pandemic’s impact on their education. These no-year funds will help support schools locally as they devise and implement student learning recovery initiatives.

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

**BIE Funding**



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 enrichment, gifted and talented programs, facility operations, and maintenance at BIE schools operated by Tribes or directly by BIE. In some schools—mostly in remote sites—funding also supports residential costs. BIE operates two post-secondary schools, administers grants for 29 Tribally controlled colleges and universities, and funds two Tribal technical colleges.

BIE continues to strengthen as an independent bureau with a separate budget structure and ongoing reforms to improve learning and student outcomes at BIE schools. A key aspect of this effort is decoupling functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and BIE to better deliver services to schools, maximize efficiency, and build

## BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION Facts



- The Bureau of Indian Education provides education services to 45,000 individual students, with an average daily membership of 40,000 students in 23 States, 169 elementary and secondary schools, and 14 dormitories.
- Currently, 129—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 colleges, universities, and postsecondary schools.

capacity within BIE. BIE is gradually assuming direct responsibility for acquisition, safety, and facilities management. Aligning resources with management responsibilities addresses recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and will provide BIE the autonomy and accountability needed to improve service delivery to—and by—BIE-funded schools.

**Investing in Tribal Education**—The 2022 budget supports improved educational opportunities and service delivery for Native American students from their earliest years through college. BIE is implementing ongoing reforms to strengthen itself as an independent bureau and increase accountability and transparency throughout the organization. This multiyear process is transforming BIE into an organization that serves as a capacity builder and service provider to support Tribes in educating their youth and delivering a world-class and culturally appropriate education.

BIE received \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding in 2020 and 2021 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, and the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which directed the Department of Education to transfer funds to BIE from the Education Stabilization Fund. More than 90 percent of that funding was distributed by formula directly to individual schools, including Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs). Funds are helping school communities improve educational operations with ongoing safety, mitigation, personal protective equipment needs, mental health, online learning, and reopening.

**Operation of Indian Education Programs**—The 2022 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$110.5 million over the 2021 enacted level. The core mission of BIE is to support Bureau Operated and Tribally Controlled schools and administer grants to Tribal institutions of higher education.

*Elementary and Secondary Programs*—The request includes \$844.2 million, an increase of \$72.8 million over the 2021 enacted level, to provide base funding for the operation of the entire BIE elementary and secondary school system of 169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories, providing educational services to approximately 45,000 individual students in 23 States. Funds support the basic and supplemental education programs at BIE-funded schools, student transportation, facility operations, and maintenance.

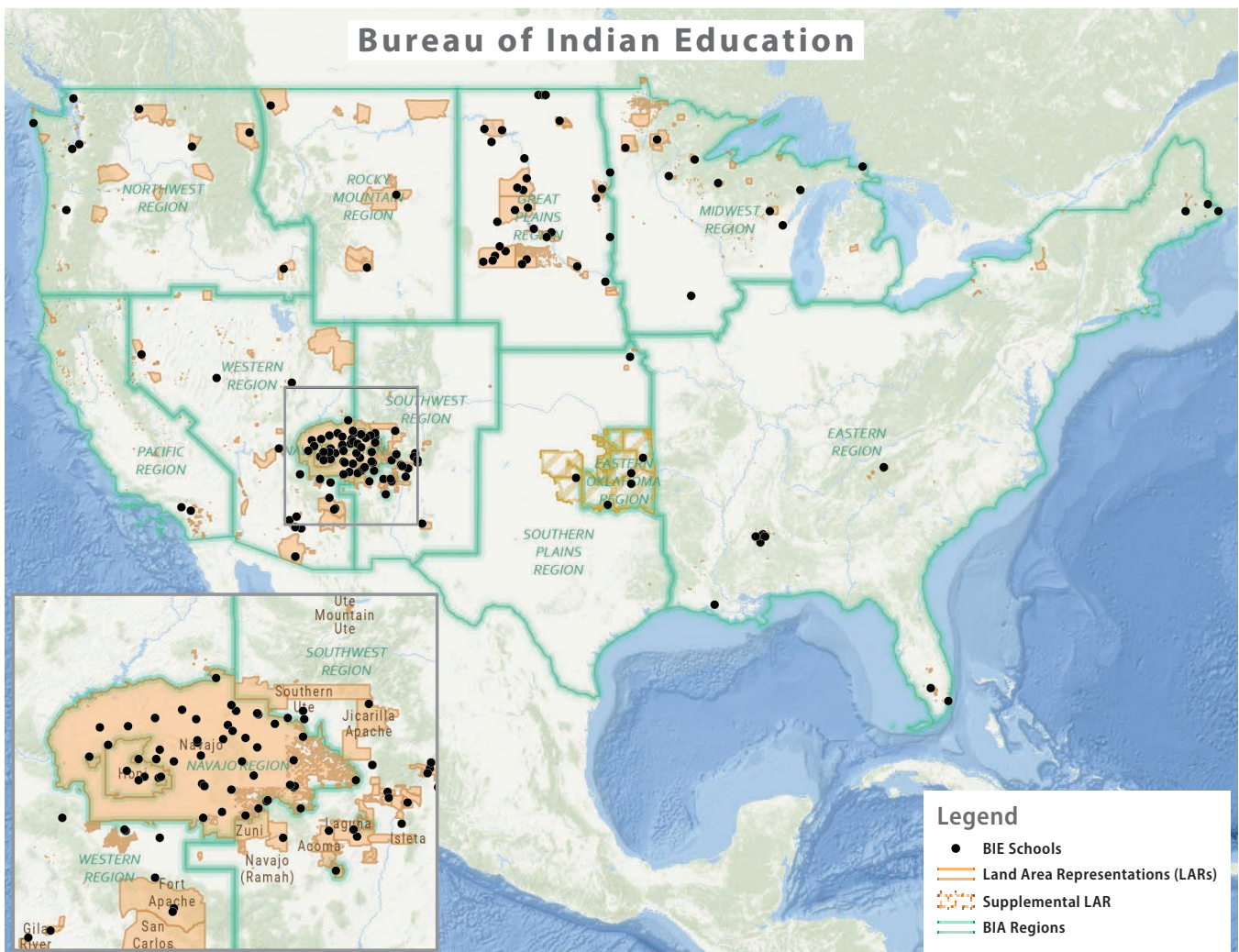
The 2022 request includes a \$60.0 million program increase above 2021 enacted levels to improve Indian student academic outcomes, support expanded preschool programs, and provide pay parity for Tribal teachers while fully funding projected Tribal Grant Support Costs. Within the \$60.0 million increase, \$49.0 million is for Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) formula funds to improve opportunities and outcomes in the classroom, provide improved instructional services, and support improved teacher quality, recruitment, and retention. An additional \$3.0 million is for Early Child and Family Development to expand preschool opportunities at BIE-funded schools. The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities with an increase of \$8.0 million in

Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools to support 100 percent of the estimated requirement.

For the 2020–2021 school year, BIE implemented its first-ever unified Standards, Assessments, and Accountability System (SAAS), in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This framework and consistency are critical to improving services and providing the high-quality education that BIE students and Tribes deserve. Before the BIE Unified Assessment system went into effect with the final rule, CFR 25 part 30, that aligned to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the ESSA, all Bureau-funded schools followed their state systems. The SAAS will provide BIE with the ability to operate under a single unified assessment system across the 23 States where BIE-funded schools are

located, including standards for career readiness and next-generation science, as well as indicators for academic proficiency in mathematics, English language arts, science, and alternate assessments aligned to ESSA. Tribes continue to have the right to use Native American languages as a medium of instruction.

*Postsecondary Programs*—The request includes \$168.0 million for Postsecondary Programs, an increase of \$14.6 million over the 2021 enacted level. This funding will be used to operate two postsecondary institutions, administer grants to 29 Tribally Controlled colleges, and support two Tribal technical colleges. The 2022 budget continues recognition of the critical role that Tribal postsecondary schools play in empowering Indian students and Tribal communities. Tribal colleges and universities are uniquely positioned to help





BIE schools afford students opportunities for Tribal cultural enrichment, including native language instruction and participation in Tribal traditions.

Native students overcome barriers to success by providing high-quality education while preserving Native languages and traditions. These institutions are on or near reservations, and 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 request includes an increase of \$10.0 million for the Scholarships and Adult Education (TPA) program to improve educational opportunities and serve a larger population of qualified Native American students. The TPA program supports Administration priorities through educational grants to Tribal communities, which have been historically underserved and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. These funds enable Tribes to further Tribal sovereignty and self-determination by establishing their own educational priorities, promoting economic development, and improving standards of living in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

BIE is investing \$2.0 million in a new initiative that provides research and development (R&D) internships to highly qualified students from economically disadvantaged rural communities. R&D intern scholarships are an investment in advancing Tribal self-determination by opening and expanding doors to the next generation of leaders in Indian Country. The program will complement the existing Science Post Graduate Scholarship Fund and support R&D investments that provide actionable and accessible information and decision support tools. Assuming an average internship value of \$10,000, this increase will provide approximately 200 additional students with opportunities for hands-on learning and increased job skills in R&D fields.

*Education Management*—The request includes \$71.5 million for education management and information technology, an increase of \$23.2 million over the 2021 enacted level, to optimize learning opportunities for students of all ages. Education Program Management funding supports ongoing improvements in high-priority functional areas,

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

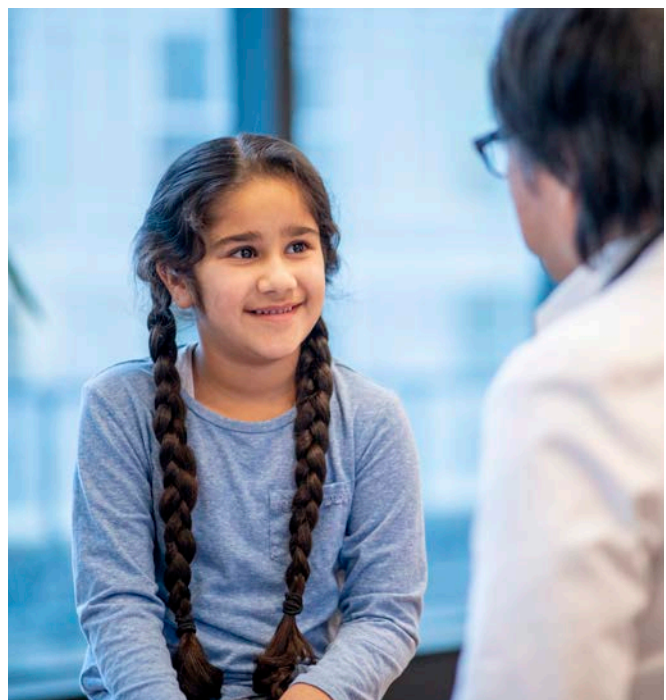
The budget proposes an increase of \$20.0 million for Education IT to support the ongoing costs of distance learning and enhanced use of technology in the classroom. Supplemental funding to support BIE-funded schools has enabled new technology investments and operational capabilities for learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These investments will be long lasting and provide invaluable infrastructure to enable BIE to continue to deliver education during the pandemic, and they will substantially improve the efficiency and quality of education upon return to in-school learning. Although most schools remain in either a distance learning or hybrid instruction mode, BIE continues to work collaboratively with Tribes and communities to alleviate the strains imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on BIE students and their families, as well as on teachers, administrators, and staff in K–12 schools and at TCUs. The 2022 budget increase in education information technology resources will continue the annual learning software subscriptions and licenses. The increase will also support contract extensions needed to maintain this investment, as well as the educational IT personnel costs to support remote learning and additional broadband capabilities.

The Payments for Tribal Leases account within the BIA budget is used to administer both BIA and BIE section 105(1) leases of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The 2022 budget fully funds costs for signed lease agreements. The budget proposes to shift the indefinite discretionary appropriations accounts, which support payments for these leases in both the Indian Health Service and Interior, to mandatory funding starting in 2023.

The BIE budget includes \$400,000 as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility budget initiative to address identified high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation. As part of this initiative, the Department, bureaus, and offices will jointly conduct a review of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility program across Interior to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and to examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance.

**Tribal Priority Allocations**—Tribal Priority Allocations give Tribes the opportunity to further Indian self-determination by establishing their own priorities and reallocating Federal funds among programs in this budget category. The 2022 budget includes Tribal Priority Allocation funding of \$67.5 million.

**Education Construction**—The 2022 budget includes \$264.3 million in annual funding for Education Construction to replace and repair school facilities in poor condition and address deferred



A student smiles as she listens to a teacher.

maintenance needs at campuses in the BIE school system. Education Construction funds will be supplemented by permanent funds from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA, P.L. 116-152). BIE is expected to receive up to \$95.0 million per year in GAOA permanent funding for priority deferred maintenance projects from 2021 through 2025. Actual amounts are dependent on energy development revenues, as specified in the GAOA.

Replacing or repairing BIE-funded schools in poor condition remains a high priority. Indian Affairs (IA), 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. Following a comprehensive assessment, site project plans are presented to the IA Facilities Investment Review Board (FIRB) for review and recommended approval by the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The SACI program will result in a long-term facilities plan that is continuously updated and is adjustable to changes in education construction funding and evaluation or selection criteria.

Each year from 2019 through 2021, 10 schools were identified by the SACI program for assessment on the basis of established criteria. To date, IA has completed comprehensive assessments at the 10 schools selected in 2019, of which 9 have been

approved by the FIRB for replacement or major repair. IA expects to have recommended decisions to the FIRB for the remaining school in the fourth quarter of FY 2021. Of the next 20 schools identified for site assessments, the 10 school assessments identified in 2020 have been completed. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and related staffing capacity issues, IA expects to finalize the site assessment plan reviews and recommendations for those 10 schools early in 2022.

With the Replacement School Construction, Replacement Facility Construction, and GAOA funds enacted through FY 2022, BIE can fully fund replacement of all 10 schools on the 2016 replacement list and up to 3 schools from the SACI program. Final allocations are dependent on the final cost estimates pending completion of the design phase for each school.

The 2022 budget includes \$95.3 million for facility improvement and repair at BIE schools to maintain the school infrastructure and provide an environment conducive to educational achievement. The budget includes \$13.6 million for BIE employee housing repair and \$1.0 million for employee housing replacement. In 2021, Congress established a new funding line item for facility improvement and repairs in Tribal colleges. BIE and IA conducted Tribal consultations in the spring of 2021 and are in the process of finalizing the distribution methodology.

**Fixed Costs**—Fixed costs of \$18.2 million are fully funded.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2022 Request with 2021 Enacted*

	2021 Enacted		2022 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Operation of Indian Education Programs .....	2,389	973,092	2,661	1,083,634	+272	+110,542
Education Construction.....	14	264,277	14	264,330	0	+53
Subtotal, Current (w/o transfer) .....	2,403	1,237,369	2,675	1,347,964	+272	+110,595
Transfer from Education Stabilization Fund.....	0	409,400	0	0	0	-409,400
Subtotal, Current (w/ transfer) .....	2,403	1,646,769	2,675	1,347,964	+272	-298,805
<b>Permanent</b>						
Operation of Indian Education Programs <sup>1/</sup> .....	0	850,000	0	0	0	-850,000
Subtotal, Permanent <sup>2/</sup> .....	0	850,000	0	0	0	-850,000
<b>Reimbursable</b>						
Reimbursable .....	366	0	569	0	+203	0
Subtotal, Reimbursable.....	366	0	569	0	+203	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (w/o transfer) .....</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,087,369</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>1,347,964</b>	<b>+475</b>	<b>-739,405</b>
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (w/ transfer) .....</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,496,769</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>1,347,964</b>	<b>+475</b>	<b>-1,148,805</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Supplemental funding for BIE made available through the American Rescue Plan.

<sup>2/</sup> Does not include amounts for BIE Construction available through the Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Restoration Fund, which are shown in the Departmental Operations tables. Amounts available through GAOA for BIE are \$95.0 million in 2021 and up to \$95.0 million in 2022. Actual amount for 2022 is dependent on energy development revenues, as specified in the GAOA.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES**  
*By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity*

**APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs**

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request	Change
<i>Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)</i>				
ISEP Formula Funds .....	415,351	426,838	484,784	+57,946
ISEP Program Adjustments .....	5,489	5,585	5,844	+259
Education Program Enhancements .....	14,303	14,451	15,013	+562
Tribal Education Departments .....	2,500	5,000	5,003	+3
Student Transportation .....	56,991	58,143	59,616	+1,473
Early Childhood and Family Development .....	18,852	21,000	24,655	+3,655
Tribal Grant Support Costs .....	83,407	86,884	94,884	+8,000
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary <i>(forward funded)</i> .....	596,893	617,901	689,799	+71,898
<i>Elementary and Secondary Programs</i>				
Facilities Operations .....	74,897	69,785	70,189	+404
Facilities Maintenance .....	60,906	61,999	62,421	+422
Juvenile Detention Center Education .....	500	553	554	+1
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants <i>(TPA)</i> .....	20,335	21,140	21,198	+58
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary Programs .....	156,638	153,477	154,362	+885
<i>Postsecondary Programs (forward funded)</i>				
Haskell and SIPI .....	23,748	26,258	28,622	+2,364
Tribal Colleges and Universities .....	74,282	76,510	76,510	0
Tribal Technical Colleges .....	7,914	8,151	8,151	0
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs <i>(forward funded)</i> .....	105,944	110,919	113,283	+2,364
<i>Postsecondary Programs</i>				
Tribal Colleges and Universities Supplements <i>(TPA)</i> .....	1,220	1,220	1,220	0
Scholarships and Adult Education <i>(TPA)</i> ..	34,333	34,833	45,041	+10,208
Special Higher Education Scholarships .....	2,992	3,492	3,492	0
Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund .....	2,450	2,950	4,950	+2,000
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs .....	40,995	42,495	54,703	+12,208
<i>Education Management</i>				
Education Program Management .....	32,300	32,956	36,063	+3,107
Education IT .....	10,307	15,344	35,424	+20,080
Subtotal, Education Management .....	42,607	48,300	71,487	+23,187
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental and transfers) .....</b>				
	943,077	973,092	1,083,634	+110,542
Supplemental .....	69,000	0	0	0
Transfers <sup>1/</sup> .....	+106,672	+409,400	0	-409,400
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental and transfers) .....</b>				
	1,118,749	1,382,492	1,083,634	-298,858

<sup>1/</sup> The 2020 Actual and 2021 Enacted net amounts include transfers of \$153.8 million and \$409.4 million, respectively, from the Education Stabilization Fund. More information can be found in Appendix A.



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

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2022 Change from 2021 Enacted		2022 Change from 2021 Enacted
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	+110,542	Scholarships and Adult Education (TPA)	+10,000
Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)....	+71,898	Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund .....	+2,000
ISEP Formula Funds .....	+49,000	Tribal Transfer—Scholarships and Adult Education (TPA) .....	+34
Early Childhood and Family Development .....	+3,000	Fixed Costs .....	+174
Tribal Grant Support Costs—Funds 100 Percent of Need .....	+8,000	Education Management .....	+23,187
Fixed Costs .....	+11,898	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility .....	+400
Elementary and Secondary Programs.....	+885	Education IT .....	+20,000
Tribal Transfer—Johnson O'Malley Grants (TPA) .....	-5	Tribal Transfer—Program Management.....	-6
Fixed Costs .....	+890	Fixed Costs .....	+2,793
Postsecondary Programs (forward funded) .....	+2,364	Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple Subactivities	
Fixed Costs .....	+2,364	Internal and Tribal Transfers, Net .....	[+23]
Postsecondary Programs.....	+12,208	Fixed Costs .....	[+18,119]

**APPROPRIATION: Education Construction**

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request	Change
Replacement School Construction.....	115,504	115,504	115,504	0
Replacement Facility Construction .....	23,935	23,935	23,935	0
Replacement/New Employee Housing.....	0	1,000	1,000	0
Employee Housing Repair.....	13,578	13,581	13,589	+8
Facilities Improvement and Repair .....	95,240	95,257	95,302	+45
Tribal Colleges Facilities Improvement and Repair .....	0	15,000	15,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	248,257	264,277	264,330	+53

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2022 Change from 2021 Enacted
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	+53
Fixed Costs .....	+53