



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 succeed 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

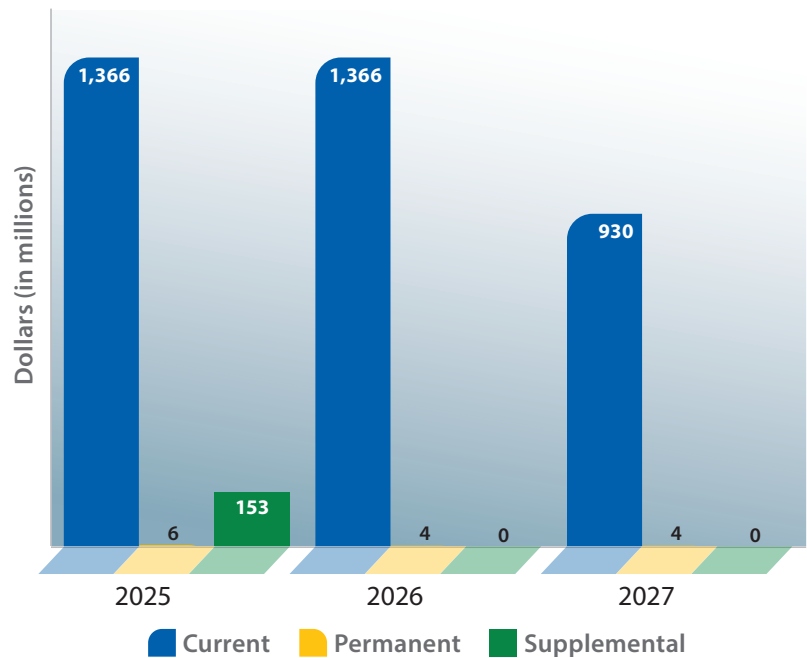
The 2027 President’s Budget for BIE is \$929.8 million in current appropriations. BIE estimates the budget supports staffing of 2,586 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2027.

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, 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 2027 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$894.4 million, providing resources for

BIE Funding



Veterans Day Parade at Ojo Encino Day School in Cuba, NM.

BIE Photo.



- 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.

BIE's core mission to support bureau-operated and tribally controlled primary and secondary schools, along with Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Funding levels include a \$6.0 million program increase to the Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP), which will directly benefit students by allowing schools to hire additional teachers, administrators, and critical support staff, thereby aiding student achievement. The budget also includes a \$5.5 million program increase for Student Transportation that will increase the reliability of daily transportation for students to foster improved student attendance and academic performance.

The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities and includes \$93.5 million to fully fund projected Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools.

Education Construction

The 2027 budget includes \$35.4 million in current appropriations for Education Construction to improve the safety and functionality of facilities at campuses across the BIE school system.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$13.2 million are fully funded.



Family Math Night for Pre-K through 6th grade students and their families at Cove Day School in Cove, AZ.

BIE Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2027 Request with 2026 Enacted

	2026 Enacted		2027 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of Indian Education Programs	2,120	1,131,617	2,051	894,368	-69	-237,249
Education Construction	15	234,725	13	35,417	-2	-199,308
Subtotal, Current	2,135	1,366,342	2,064	929,785	-71	-436,557
Permanent						
Operation of Indian Education Programs	6	0	0	0	-6	0
Operation and Maintenance of Quarters	12	2,949	12	2,600	0	-349
Gifts and Donations	5	1,000	5	1,000	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	23	3,949	17	3,600	-6	-349
Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other						
Allocation	1	0	1	0	0	0
Reimbursable	517	0	504	0	-13	0
Subtotal, Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other	518	0	505	0	-13	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION	2,676	1,370,291	2,586	933,385	-90	-436,906

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity
(dollar amounts in thousands)

APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)				
ISEP Formula Funds	481,636	481,636	500,541	+18,905
ISEP Program Adjustments	6,539	6,539	5,405	-1,134
Education Program Enhancements	21,025	21,025	17,809	-3,216
Tribal Education Departments	5,889	5,889	5,000	-889
Student Transportation	70,007	70,007	75,517	+5,510
Early Childhood and Family Development	25,267	25,267	0	-25,267
Tribal Grant Support Costs	95,822	95,822	93,515	-2,307
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)	706,185	706,185	697,787	-8,398
Elementary and Secondary Programs				
Facilities Operations	80,888	80,888	66,199	-14,689
Facilities Maintenance	73,544	73,544	59,027	-14,517
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants (TPA)	20,539	20,539	0	-20,539
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary Programs	174,971	174,971	125,226	-49,745

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

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Postsecondary Programs <i>(forward funded)</i>				
Haskell and SIPI	30,325	30,325	22,101	-8,224
Tribal Colleges and Universities	87,926	87,926	0	-87,926
Tribal Technical Colleges	9,156	9,156	0	-9,156
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs <i>(forward funded)</i>	127,407	127,407	22,101	-105,306
Postsecondary Programs				
Tribal Colleges and Universities Supplements <i>(TPA)</i>	1,220	1,220	0	-1,220
Scholarships and Adult Education <i>(TPA)</i>	43,206	43,206	0	-43,206
Special Higher Education Scholarships	4,992	4,992	0	-4,992
Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund	6,450	6,450	0	-6,450
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs	55,868	55,868	0	-55,868
Education Management				
Education Program Management	39,285	39,285	34,258	-5,027
Education IT	27,901	27,901	14,996	-12,905
Subtotal, Education Management	67,186	67,186	49,254	-17,932
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,131,617	1,131,617	894,368	-237,249

APPROPRIATION: Education Construction

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Replacement School Construction	152,401	152,401	0	-152,401
Replacement Facility Construction	19,648	19,648	0	-19,648
Replacement/New Employee Housing	5,380	1,500	0	-1,500
Employee Housing Repair	0	3,880	0	-3,880
Facilities Improvement and Repair	41,296	41,296	35,417	-5,879
Tribal Colleges Facilities Improvement and Repair	16,000	16,000	0	-16,000
SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION	234,725	234,725	35,417	-199,308
American Relief Act (P.L. 118-158)	153,000	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	387,725	234,725	35,417	-199,308