



# BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

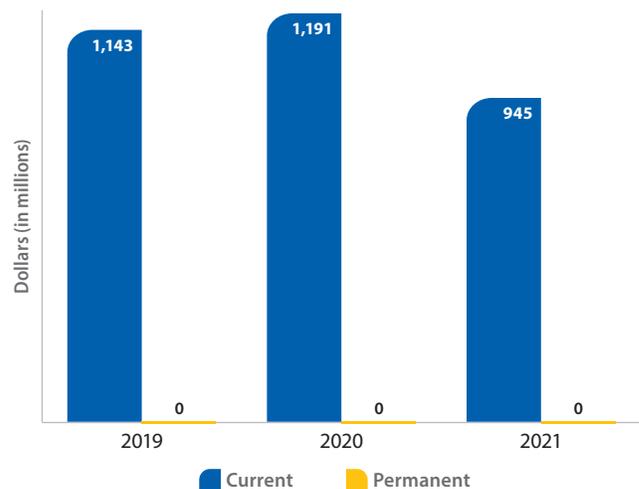
**Mission**—The mission of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is to provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life, in accordance with a Tribe’s needs for cultural and economic well-being and in keeping with the wide diversity of Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages as distinct cultural and governmental entities.

**Budget Overview**—The 2021 President’s budget for BIE is \$944.5 million in current appropriations. The budget prioritizes programs serving the broadest number of students and proposes reductions in more narrowly focused activities. BIE estimates the budget supports staffing of 2,894 full-time equivalents in 2021.

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 enrichment, gifted and talented programs, facility operations, and maintenance. In some schools, mostly in remote sites, funding also supports residential costs. BIE operates 2 postsecondary schools, administers grants for 29 Tribally controlled colleges and universities, and funds 2 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

## BIE Funding



is decoupling overlapping functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and BIE to better deliver services to schools, maximize efficiency, and build capacity within BIE. BIE retains existing programs and 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.

**Operation of Indian Education Programs**—The 2021 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$875.7 million. The core mission of BIE is to support the BIE school system and administer grants to Tribal institutions of higher education. In the 2021 request, priority is given to programs that directly support classroom operations at BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary Tribal colleges and

## BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION Facts

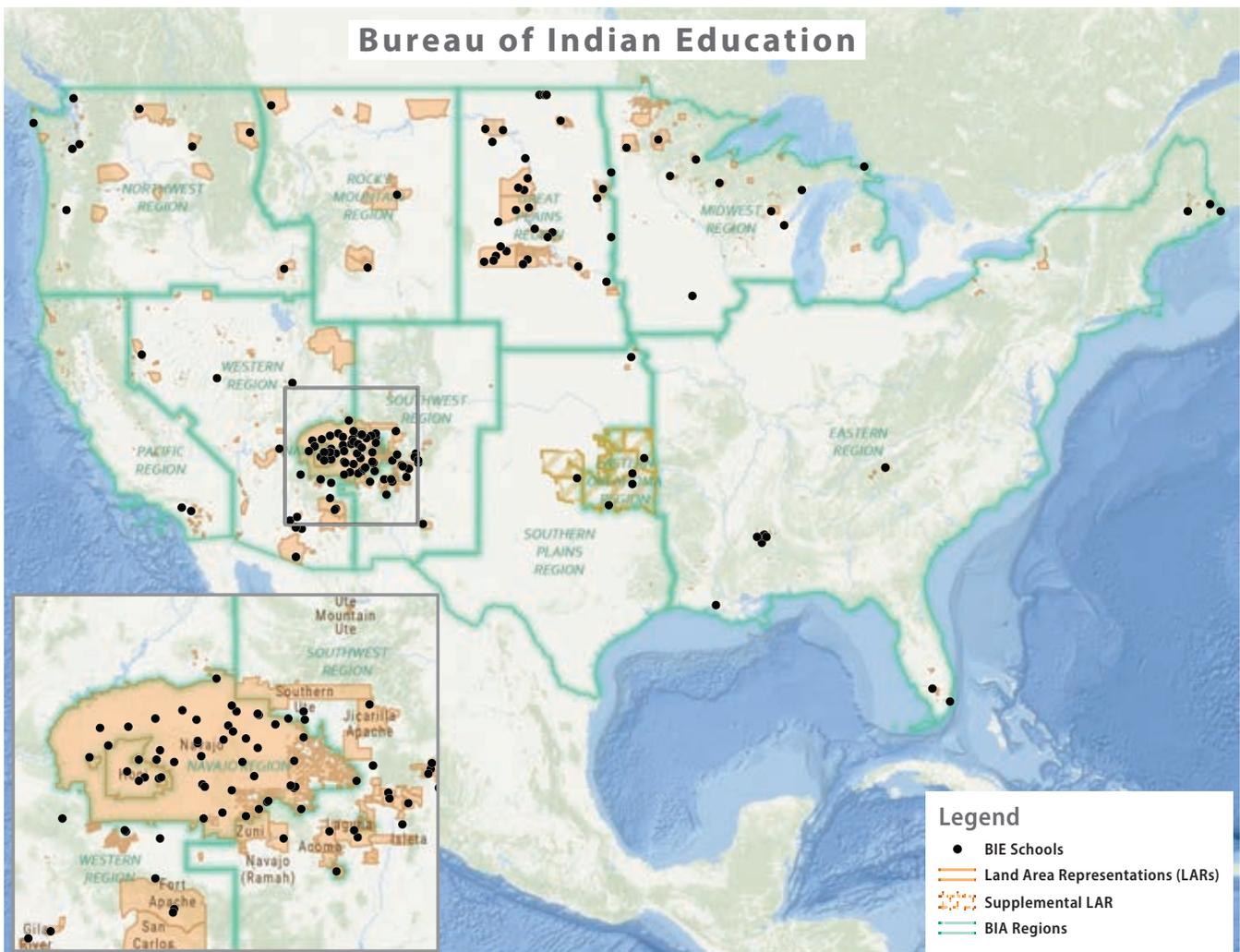


- The Bureau of Indian Education provides education services to 46,000 individual students, with an Average Daily Membership of 41,000 students in 23 States, 169 elementary and secondary schools, and 14 dormitories.
- Currently, 130—or 71 percent—of BIE-funded elementary schools, secondary schools, and dormitories are Tribally controlled and operate under the direction of individual Tribal governments.
- BIE also provides funding to 33 colleges, universities, and postsecondary schools.

universities. Activities that do not directly support BIE school programs or facilities are a lower priority.

The budget supports the BIE Strategic Direction, a 5-year plan first released in August 2018, that continues implementation of BIE reforms to improve services to Indian students. The plan

was developed through a yearlong process that included consultation with Tribes and key stakeholders. The Strategic Direction includes clear milestones and actions to identify successful programs and approaches from preschool through postsecondary education and fosters tailored solutions at the individual school level. At the core of this plan is a commitment to work collaboratively



with Tribes, school boards, employees, and other stakeholders throughout the development, implementation, and refinement of the Strategic Direction.

*Elementary and Secondary Programs*—The request includes \$728.7 million 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 46,000 individual students in 23 States. Funds support the basic and supplemental education programs at BIE-funded schools, student transportation, facility operations, and maintenance. The budget proposes \$19.3 million for Early Child and Family Development. Education Program Enhancements is funded at \$10.1 million and supports continued school improvement activities and native language immersion programs in BIE-funded schools. The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities and includes \$83.6 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. The budget also includes \$14.6 million for the Johnson-O'Malley program, which is authorized to support the education of eligible Indian students enrolled in public schools and previously private schools.

*Postsecondary Programs*—The request includes \$97.9 million for Postsecondary Programs to operate 2 postsecondary institutions, administer grants to 29 Tribally operated colleges, and funds 2 Tribal technical colleges. These programs provide Tribal communities with the necessary resources and facilities to teach Indian students the skills they need for career success. Postsecondary education



Ahfachkee Graduating Class of 2019

of Tribal members is also an important component in the economic development of many Tribes. The request preserves funding for classroom instruction and other core services.

*Education Management*—The request includes \$49.0 million for education management and information technology to optimize learning opportunities for students of all ages. Funding includes \$33.7 million for Education Program Management, which will enable BIE to build much needed capacity in such areas as 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 includes an increase of \$5.0 million to expand and upgrade broadband access at BIE schools to provide a 21st-century learning environment. Broadband internet connections make it possible for educators and students in remotely located

BIE-funded schools to access innovative resources, comply with online testing requirements and access knowledge and expertise worldwide. Funds will support high-cost special fiber construction efforts and increased monthly circuit costs for the remaining schools without access—those in the most remote and hard-to-access areas. Remaining funding will be used to begin upgrading all schools to recommended educational standards to provide appropriate internet connectivity and keep pace with public schools. As school upgrades are completed, corresponding data circuits and gateway hardware in the BIE network will also need upgrades to ensure appropriate response time. The Department will continue to leverage the Federal Communication Commission's E-Rate program, which helps schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband with up to a 90-percent discount of eligible costs.

The 2021 budget fully funds costs for signed lease agreements under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and proposes to establish new indefinite discretionary appropriations accounts to support payments for these leases in both the Indian Health Service and Interior. The budget proposes one account, Payments for Tribal Leases, within the Indian Affairs budget structure, which would be used to administer both BIA and BIE section 105(l) leases.

*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 2021 budget

includes Tribal Priority Allocation funding of \$14.6 million.

**Education Construction**—In addition to support through the Administration's Public Lands Infrastructure Fund legislative proposal, the 2021 budget includes \$68.9 million in annual funding for Education Construction. The budget includes \$62.8 million for facility improvement and repair at existing schools to provide an environment conducive to educational achievement. Available funding from prior years will continue design/build construction for schools on the 2016 school replacement list. The budget includes \$5.1 million for BIE employee housing repair and new funding of \$1.0 million for employee housing replacement. In 2021, BIE will continue to manage new construction activities through a reimbursable agreement with BIA. BIE will work with BIA to implement changes in the facility improvement and repair activities to improve validation at the school level upon completion of needed repairs.

**Management Reforms**—The 2021 budget helps to advance several significant management reforms. The budget supports the Administration's priority workforce goal to incentivize employee performance to better recognize high-performing employee contributions to mission achievement across the bureau. The Indian Affairs budget also supports operations and maintenance of an enterprisewide grants management and tracking system, GrantSolutions.

**Fixed Costs**—Fixed costs of \$10.4 million are fully funded.

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

*Comparison of 2021 Request with 2020 Enacted <sup>1/</sup>*

	2020 Enacted		2021 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of Indian Education Programs .....	2,421	943,077	2,411	875,659	-10	-67,418
Education Construction.....	6	248,257	6	68,885	0	-179,372
Subtotal, Current .....	2,427	1,191,334	2,417	944,544	-10	-246,790
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Reimbursable .....	31	0	477	0	+446	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable.....	31	0	477	0	+446	0
<b>TOTAL, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>1,191,334</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>944,544</b>	<b>+436</b>	<b>-246,790</b>

<sup>1/</sup> As BIE transitions to a separate budget structure, BIE staff paid with Department of Education funding will shift from the Bureau of Indian Affairs account, as funding agreements are renewed.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

### By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

#### APPROPRIATION: Operation of Indian Education Programs <sup>1/</sup>

	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request	Change
<i>Elementary and Secondary (forward funded)</i>				
ISEP Formula Funds .....	[404,165]	415,351	409,589	-5,762
ISEP Program Adjustments .....	[5,479]	5,489	5,585	+96
Education Program Enhancements .....	[12,278]	14,303	10,101	-4,202
Tribal Education Departments .....	[2,500]	2,500	0	-2,500
Student Transportation .....	[56,413]	56,991	57,113	+122
Early Childhood and Family Development .....	[18,810]	18,852	19,254	+402
Tribal Grant Support Costs .....	[82,935]	83,407	83,567	+160
Subtotal, Elementary and Secondary <i>(forward funded)</i> .....	[582,580]	596,893	585,209	-11,684
<i>Elementary/Secondary Programs</i>				
Facilities Operations .....	[68,795]	74,897	67,585	-7,312
Facilities Maintenance .....	[59,774]	60,906	60,749	-157
Juvenile Detention Center Education .....	[500]	500	503	+3
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants <i>(TPA)</i> .....	[14,903]	20,335	14,640	-5,695
Subtotal, Elementary/Secondary Programs .....	[143,972]	156,638	143,477	-13,161
<i>Postsecondary Programs (forward funded)</i>				
Haskell and SIPI .....	[22,694]	23,748	20,647	-3,101
Tribal Colleges and Universities .....	[70,793]	74,282	69,782	-4,500
Tribal Technical Colleges .....	[7,505]	7,914	7,514	-400
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs <i>(forward funded)</i> .....	[100,992]	105,944	97,943	-8,001
<i>Postsecondary Programs</i>				
Tribal Colleges and Universities Supplements <i>(TPA)</i> .....	[1,220]	1,220	0	-1,220
Scholarships and Adult Education <i>(TPA)</i> ..	[34,996]	34,333	0	-34,333
Special Higher Education Scholarships .....	[2,992]	2,992	0	-2,992
Science Postgraduate Scholarship Fund .....	[2,450]	2,450	0	-2,450
Subtotal, Postsecondary Programs .....	[41,658]	40,995	0	-40,995
<i>Education Management</i>				
Education Program Management .....	[25,053]	32,300	33,686	+1,386
Education IT .....	[10,302]	10,307	15,344	+5,037
Subtotal, Education Management .....	[35,355]	42,607	49,030	+6,423
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>[904,557]</b>	<b>943,077</b>	<b>875,659</b>	<b>-67,418</b>

<sup>1/</sup> For reference, the table includes 2019 amounts in the budget structure enacted in 2020. Funds prior to 2020 were funded in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Operations of Indian Programs account.

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

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2021 Change from 2020 Enacted		2021 Change from 2020 Enacted
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	-67,418		
Elementary and Secondary <i>(forward funded)</i> ....	-11,684	Postsecondary Programs.....	-40,995
ISEP Formula Funds .....	-11,249	Tribal Colleges and Universities	
Education Program Enhancements .....	-4,350	Supplements <i>(TPA)</i> .....	-1,220
Tribal Education Departments .....	-2,500	Scholarships and Adult Education <i>(TPA)</i> ...	-34,333
Student Transportation .....	-530	Special Higher Education Scholarships ...	-2,992
Early Childhood and Family		Science Postgraduate	
Development .....	+70	Scholarship Fund.....	-2,450
Tribal Grant Support Costs—Funds 100		Education Management .....	+6,423
Percent of Need.....	+160	Education Program Management.....	+730
Fixed Costs .....	+6,715	Education IT (Broadband).....	+5,000
Elementary and Secondary .....	-13,161	Tribal Transfer—Education Program	
Facilities Operations .....	-200	Management.....	-22
Facilities Maintenance .....	-1,250	Fixed Costs .....	+715
Internal Transfer—Shift 105(l) Lease		Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple	
Funding to New Account .....	-8,000	Subactivities	
Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants		Internal and Tribal Transfers, Net .....	[-8,311]
<i>(TPA)</i> .....	-5,500	Fixed Costs .....	[+10,407]
Tribal Transfer—Johnson O'Malley			
Grants <i>(TPA)</i> .....	-289		
Fixed Costs .....	+2,078		
Postsecondary Programs <i>(forward funded)</i> .....	-8,001		
Haskell and SIPI .....	-4,000		
Tribal Colleges and Universities .....	-4,500		
Tribal Technical Colleges .....	-400		
Fixed Costs .....	+899		

**APPROPRIATION: Education Construction <sup>1/</sup>**

	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request	Change
Replacement School Construction.....	[105,504]	115,504	0	-115,504
Replacement Facility Construction .....	[23,935]	23,935	0	-23,935
Replacement/New Employee Housing.....	[0]	0	1,000	+1,000
Employee Housing Repair.....	[13,576]	13,578	5,066	-8,512
Facilities Improvement and Repair .....	[95,235]	95,240	62,819	-32,421
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>[238,250]</b>	<b>248,257</b>	<b>68,885</b>	<b>-179,372</b>

<sup>1/</sup> For reference, the table includes 2019 amounts in the budget structure enacted in 2020. Funds prior to 2020 were funded in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Construction account.

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2021 Change from 2020 Enacted
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>-179,372</b>
Replacement School Construction.....	-115,504
Replacement Facility Construction .....	-23,935
Replacement/New Employee Housing.....	+1,000
Employee Housing Repair.....	-8,515
Facilities Improvement and Repair .....	-32,438
Fixed Costs .....	+20