

# NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S RESOLUTIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES IMPACTING AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE/NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS

The National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL) is made up of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian State Legislators from 18 states and is organized to provide a forum for discussion, education and increased communication. Additionally, the NCNASL identifies and proposes legislation and administrative actions to eliminate barriers to achievement of a better quality of life for Native people.

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators works closely with the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) in promoting educational policy at federal, tribal and state levels that promotes equity in Indian Education and adequate resources to support this policy, and

**WHEREAS** NIEA has passed Resolution No. 06-10 that formally encourages and recognizes the Education Committee of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators and their work to improve the education of all tribal members; and

**WHEREAS** that the work be done by Native American state legislators is essential to partnerships and resolving conflicts between states and tribes regarding education issues; and

**WHEREAS** the National Indian Education Association has taken action on a number of policy resolutions that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators would like to add their support; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS** that the inherent sovereignty of Tribes as recognized through historical treaties and legal relationships that exist between Tribal Nations and the United States of America is undeniable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislatures asks our respective congressional delegations, States and Tribal Governments to work to achieve the efforts outlined by the following NIEA Resolutions as follows: (*The full text of each Resolution can be found on NIEA's website*)

1. NIEA Resolution 07-01: In support of amending the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to include treating tribal education officials as equals with Federal, State, and Local Education Officials in terms of access to public school student records.

To establish reciprocal standing among tribal education officials with Federal, State, and Local Education Officials in terms of access to public school student records for the benefit of the student.

2. NIEA Resolution 08-02: Support of full funding of Federal Impact Aid and urges the U.S. Government to:

- Fulfill its trust responsibility and fully fund the Federal Impact Aid to support the educational needs of Native students, parents, tribes and local education agencies.
- To develop a forward funding methodology of the Federal Impact Aid so the local education agencies are not faced with annual budget constraints.
- Supports the basic premise of both the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the National Indian Impacted School Association to seek full federal funding for Impact Aid.

3. NIEA Resolution 08-03: Increase Administration for Native American Funds for the Esther Martinez Act.

Request an \$8 million increase to ANA over the FY 2009 proposed amount of \$46 million and that this \$8 million along with the \$2 million allocated in the President's FY 2009 budget be used for Native language immersion and restoration programs under the Esther Martinez Act.

4. NIEA Resolution 08-04: Indian Education Provisions for the No Child Left Behind Act.

- Advocate for and promote the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians to strengthen and reaffirm Indian Education under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation; and
- Supports amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act that strengthens tribal and parent involvement in the education of Native students and promotes culturally based education, emphasizing Native languages and history instruction.

5. NIEA Resolution 08-09: Preparing Native Students to Enter College and the Workforce Through High School Reform.

- Supports defining graduation rates according to a common standard and the use of longitudinal data systems and individual student identifiers to follow every child's path to graduation. NIEA also supports a NCLB accountability system that requires schools to increase their disaggregated data on graduation rates over time and to consider graduation rates on an equal footing with high quality assessments aligned to college and work readiness in determining school quality.
- Supports the integration of culturally based education methods as part of a high quality rigorous curriculum, will result in higher academic achievement among

Native students and increased graduation rates, ultimately resulting in students better prepared to enter college and the workforce.

- Supports the NCLB focus on parent and community involvement through improving their knowledge, skills and understanding of standards based education and school accountability. NIEA supports federal and state policy in the promotion of standards based education as a family responsibility that helps children to achieve.

**6. NIEA Resolution 06-01: Affirming the educational rights of Native children and calling on the government to acknowledge injustices.**

- The delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention of the National Indian Education Association affirm the right of all American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian people to take control and ownership of the education of their own children and affirm the right of said people to an educational system reflective of their cultures, heritage, languages and values including meaningful oversight of the educational process.
- Invite all Native peoples to join together in calling upon the government of the United States of America to acknowledge the injustices made in the enforcement of the educational policies governing Native people.

**Sponsored by:** Sen. Carol Juneau (MT) Education Committee Chair

**Approved date is:** September 25, 2009

**Committee of Jurisdiction:** Education

**Certified by Committee Chair:** Sen. Carol Juneau (MT)

**Certified by Caucus Chair:** Rep. John McCoy (WA)

**Ratified certified by:** The NCNASL, September 25, 2009

**Distribution List:** **National Congress of American Indians**  
**Appropriate Members of Congress**  
**Administration**  
**National Indian Education Association**  
**Secretary of Education (Arne Duncan)**  
**State Tribal Relations Committees in the States**  
**National Black Caucus of State Legislators**