

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES

RESOLUTION NO. C-85-156

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE  
PREKINDERGARTEN IN ITS REVISION OF THE  
INDIAN SCHOOL EQUALIZATION FORMULA

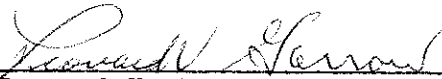
- WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs established two pilot kindergarten programs in 1973--one at Mississippi Choctaw and one at Pueblo of Acoma--with the intent of replicating these programs for all reservation communities without adequate preschool services; and
- WHEREAS, only 15 additional prekindergarten programs were funded by the BIA in succeeding years; and
- WHEREAS, implementing regulations for P.L. 95-561 (25 CFR 39.131) called for the conduct of a needs assessment for prekindergarten, the addition of prekindergarten as a weight factor in the Indian School Equalization Formula, and the inclusion of the program in the BIA education budget request; and
- WHEREAS, House Appropriations Committee Reports for Fiscal years 1984 and 1985 have spoken to the BIA's responsibility for addressing the need for prekindergarten programs, directed the BIA to revise its standards to include such programs and to make appropriate funding requests; and
- WHEREAS, the BIA has continued to ignore the implementing regulations and Congressional directives to address the prekindergarten need; and
- WHEREAS, the BIA terminated funding for the prekindergarten program in fiscal year 1983, though the program was continued through fiscal year 1984 by a Congressionally-initiated supplemental appropriation; and
- WHEREAS, such a supplemental was not initiated during the current session of Congress, and the prekindergarten programs have ended effective September 30, 1984; and
- WHEREAS, contrary to assertions from the BIA and some members of Congress, there are no alternative sources of support for such reservation-based programs; and


WHEREAS, the BIA is now reviewing its Indian School Equalization Program formula, and has indicated that inclusion of the prekindergarten programs would be costly, but has based this indication only on general estimates of the numbers of children to be served; all this despite the fact that Congressional Committee language clearly calls for inclusion; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., meeting at Cherokee, North Carolina, does hereby request the Bureau of Indian Affairs respond to the needs of young reservation children, the regulatory language of 25 CFR 39, and the directive of the House Appropriations Committee by including prekindergarten in the revision of the Indian School Equalization Formula and requesting adequate funds to provide services.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Executive Committee Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, North Carolina, October 4, 1984.

  
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Leonard V. Garrow  
President  
United South and Eastern Tribes

  
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Joel M. Frank  
Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes