



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:101

OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION FUNDING PRACTICES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member tribes have a compelling interest in the schools and educational programs provided to the member tribes' youth, including the services provided to special needs students; and
- WHEREAS,** federal financial support for the Special Education Programs for tribal and BIA schools is distributed by the BIA Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP) Center for School Improvement; and
- WHEREAS,** Special Education funding distributions in recent years have been late in the school year for which the funds were intended, causing financial stress on local schools and programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Special Education Part B funds have not only been distributed late in the school year, but also distributed in a manner which many schools associated with the USET tribes find arbitrary and inequitable; and
- WHEREAS,** local schools' Special Education Programs are required to submit extensive justification of needs to Albuquerque OIEP Office personnel who have little first-hand knowledge of the unique conditions and needs of the schools associated with USET member tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the local schools associated with USET member tribes have historically acted in good faith, making legitimate requests for funds to meet actual needs, and have not given the Office of Indian Education Programs reason to doubt the veracity of stated needs; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs to develop and implement a funding formula for Special Education monies, including Part B funds, that is based on the stated needs of the local Special Education programs, not on the determination of needs as perceived by OIEP staff members; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs to distribute Special Education monies in a timely manner, ensuring that at least a large portion of funds is distributed to the local schools at the beginning of the school year and that the remainder of funds is distributed by the mid-point of the school year, and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that USET communicate this resolution to the Director of the Office of Indian Education Programs and to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

“Because there is strength in Unity”

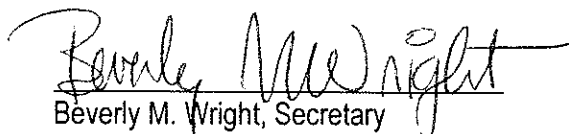
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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET 2003 Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, Mississippi, Thursday, June 5, 2003.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.