



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2008:041

### **SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN NATIVE EDUCATION PROVISIONS IN THE REAUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians; and
- WHEREAS,** NIEA, as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of American Indian and Native people; and
- WHEREAS,** through its unique relationship with Indian Nations and Tribes, the Federal Government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is currently being reviewed by the United States Congress in anticipation of this key comprehensive legislation that affects all K-12 education, including Indian education and related programs; and
- WHEREAS,** NIEA and its membership is actively reviewing the NCLB and is making specific recommendations to strengthen the legislation to ensure American Indian/Alaska Native students, staff, parents, communities and Tribes receive equitable and equal consideration throughout the legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** specific provisions being addressed by the NIEA includes, but is not limited to the following:
1. Improving and expanding Title VII – Indian Education, to address the unique cultural and educational needs of American Indian/Alaska Native students;
  2. Improving cooperation among Tribes, States, and the Federal Government;
  3. Strengthen NCLB to provide support for instruction in Native American Languages;
  4. Improving support for teachers of American Indian/ Alaska Native students in Title II and Title VII;
  5. Improving opportunities for parents, families and Tribes and other American Indian/Alaska Native communities to participate in the education of American Indian/Alaska Native children;
  6. Improving the measurement system for Adequate Yearly Progress;
  7. Requiring the collection of data and research on the education of American Indian/Alaska Native Children;
  8. Increasing Funding for NCLB, especially Title VII – Indian Education; and
- WHEREAS,** there is also a need to address the unique issues and role of American Indian/Alaska Native students, parents, communities and Tribes under all NCLB provisions, including Homeless Education, Migrant Education, Bi-lingual Education and Alcohol/Drug Prevention and Education; and

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

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**WHEREAS,** these key legislative provisions promotes the sovereignty of Tribes and will continue to strengthen the educational, social, health and economic well-being of our diverse Native Communities and Tribes; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors will work with the National Indian Education Association to advocate and promote the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians through legislative priorities to strengthen American Indian/Alaska Native education under the No Child Left Behind legislation; and, be it further

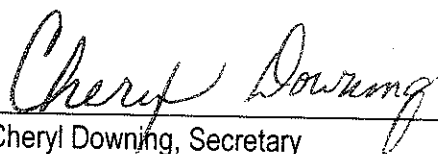
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act that strengthens Tribal involvement in the education of American Indian/Alaska Native students and promotes the use of culturally based education, including the instruction of Native languages, as drafted by National Indian Education Association and vetted throughout Indian Country.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, on Thursday, May 8, 2008.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Cheryl Downing, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.