



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:017

RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING INCREASES FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- 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,** USET is dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of Tribal governments and improving the welfare of Indian people; and
- WHEREAS,** USET supports the exercise and advancement of the principles of Indian self-determination in all Federal Indian programs, including for the full funding of the contract support costs incurred by Indian Tribes who have elected to compact or contract their Federal Indian programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has acknowledged its trust responsibility to Indian Tribes for the education of Indian children, including those children enrolled in the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school system which is the exclusive responsibility of the Federal Government; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes that these reservation-based schools are educating tomorrow's Tribal leaders and Tribal workforces; and
- WHEREAS,** six USET member Tribes have already exercised their self-determination rights to assume direct operation of 16 BIE-funded schools located on their reservations; and
- WHEREAS,** funding for the BIE school system falls substantially short of the amount needed to provide a quality education; and
- WHEREAS,** resources for the Indian School Equalization Formula (ISEF) have historically experienced reductions; and
- WHEREAS,** federal funding for the contract support costs incurred by Tribes who operate BIE-funded schools has fallen short of full funding for the past 20 years; and
- WHEREAS,** for School Year 2009-2010, Indian Tribes that operate BIE-funded schools received only 61% of the contract support cost funds required by law which jeopardizes the continued operation of Tribal schools; and
- WHEREAS,** meeting the United States' trust responsibility for the BIE school system demands enhanced funding levels for education programs and full funding for Tribes' contract support costs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Congress to demonstrate its commitment to the Bureau of Indian Education school system by increasing the funding for the Indian School Equalization Formula to \$431 million; and, therefore be it

RESOLVED USET Board of Directors asks United States Congress to fulfill its obligations to Tribes that operate Bureau of Indian Education schools by fully funding contract support costs at \$69.6 million in order to comply with law.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"