



# Historical Timeline of Diné Education

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Department of Diné Education  
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National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution. "Smithsonian Learning Lab Resource: Capt. Richard H. Pratt with Tom Torleno, Unidentified Girl and Group of Boys from New Mexico, Most in Native Dress, Upon Their Arrival Outside School Building 1880" Smithsonian Learning Lab, Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, 7 Nov. 2015. [learninglab.si.edu/q/r/449702](https://learninglab.si.edu/q/r/449702). Accessed 30 Mar. 2018

**Before**



National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution. "Smithsonian Learning Lab Resource: Portrait of Tom Torleno and Group of Boys in Uniform With Unidentified Girl from New Mexico, Six Months After Arrival at School 1880" Smithsonian Learning Lab, Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access, 7 Nov. 2015. [learninglab.si.edu/q/r/449704](https://learninglab.si.edu/q/r/449704). Accessed 30 Mar. 2018

**After**

# Articles of the Treaty of 1868

- [Article I](#)  
Cessation of war and wrongdoing
- [Article II](#)  
Delineation of reservation
- [Article III](#)  
Construction of a warehouse, agency building, carpenter and blacksmith shops, schoolhouse, and chapel
- [Article IV](#)  
Assignment of an agent reporting to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
- [Article V](#)  
Distribution of land to individuals
- [Article VI](#)  
Compulsory education for children
- [Article VII](#)  
Provision of seeds and agricultural implements

# Articles of the Treaty of 1868

- Article VIII  
Other provisions to be given to Navajos
- Article IX  
Allowance for railroads, military posts, and roads to cross the reservation. No attacks on U.S. citizens or their belongings.
- Article X  
Conditions for validation of any future treaties.
- Article XI  
Provisions for Navajo return to reservation.
- Article XII  
Appropriations of monies.
- Article XIII  
Agreement to making reservation permanent home for Navajo.

# Treaty of 1868-Article VI

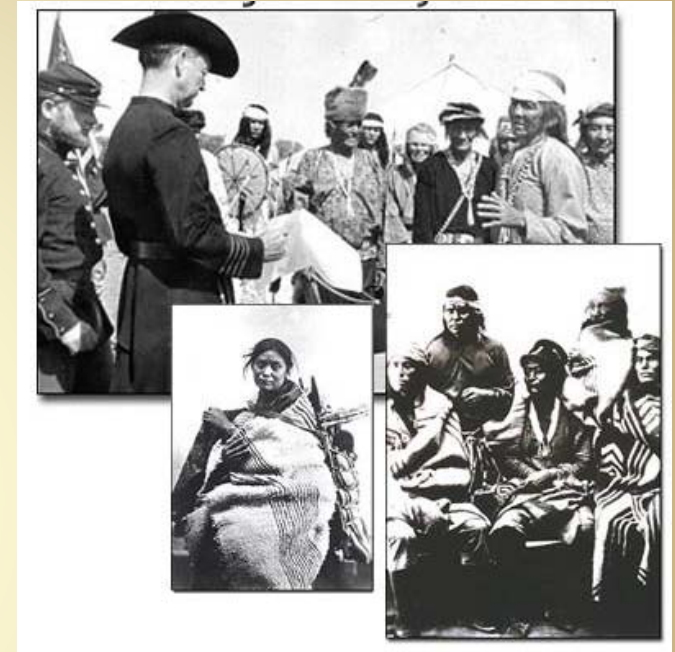
*“In order to insure the civilization of the Indians entering into this treaty, the necessity of education is admitted, especially of such of them as may be settled on said agricultural parts of this reservation, and they therefore pledge themselves to compel their children, male and female, between the ages of six and sixteen years, to attend school; and it is hereby made the duty of the agent for said Indians to see that this stipulation is strictly complied with; and the United States agrees that, for every thirty children between said ages who can be induced or compelled to attend school, a house shall be provided, and a teacher competent to teach the elementary branches of an English education shall be furnished, who will reside among said Indians, and faithfully discharge his or her duties as a teacher. ”*

# Treaty of 1868

Included a provision for....

The Education of Navajo children, 6-16 years old.

The Government promised to provide a teacher & a school house for every 30 children.



[Click Here to view full document - Treaty of 1868](#)

# Navajo Education in late 1860s

- 1803 Congress appropriates \$3,000 to civilize and educate the "heathens."
- 1820 John C. Calhoun advocates the destruction of Indian Nations & relegating them to a guardianship status. It is not until after the Civil War that this concept is endorsed & followed.
- 1824 **The Indian Office was established by the Secretary of War and operated under the administration of the War Department. The Office becomes the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 1849.**
- 1832 The office of Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is created and the appointee is charged within the War Department.
- 1842 There were at least 37 Indian Schools in existence when the Bureau of Indian Affairs was created within the War Department.
- 1849 The Bureau of Indian Affairs (formerly The Indian Office) is transferred from the War Department to the newly-created Department of the Interior.
- 1851 Fort Canby becomes Fort Defiance established and authorized by Col. Sumner
- 1864 Congress makes it illegal for Native Americans to be taught in their own languages.



# Navajo Education in late 1860s

- December 15, 1868** James Robert arrived at Fort Defiance to start a school. He was sponsored by the Presbyterian Board of Missions. He hoped to establish a school that would include a farm on which Navajo parents would work and learn the arts of farming while their children attended school.
- October 12, 1869** Charity Ann Gaston is appointed to a teaching position at Fort Defiance. She was hired by the Department of Interior with a federal salary of \$600 a year. She resigned her teaching position on June 30, 1873.
- 1870** On March 30, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified. It finally recognized the natural right of all men to vote, including Indians. Women continued to be second-class citizens.
- 1870** Congress appropriates \$100,000 to fund federal industrial schools for American Indians. The appropriation is the first monetary funding of Indian education in general.
- 1874** First Navajo Delegation travels to Washington, D.C. for realignment of land.
- 1878** Convinced of the necessity of education, Manuelito, Navajo Naat'aanii, sent his sons and a nephew to Carlisle Indian School. However, they all died before they finished school; one son and a nephew died while home on a visit; the other son died at Carlisle.

# Navajo Education in late 1860s

- 1881-85** President Chester A. Arthur authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to give official sanction to rules forbidding the practice of "rites, customs..." that are "contrary to civilization." In effect Indian religions and cultures along with languages were outlawed. This authorization gave sanction to Indian agents, educators and reformers to discourage the use of Indian languages, religions and cultural customs and practices with any means they deemed necessary.
- 1880** **The construction of a boarding school began in Fort Defiance, Arizona.**
- 1880-82** The Presbyterian Church operated a boarding school, with a teacher in Fort Defiance.
- 1882** Used Abandoned Military Posts for BIA Schools.
- 1883** The Fort Defiance Boarding School facility is completed.

# Navajo Education in 1880s

- 1887**      **Compulsory Indian Education Law passed by Congress, and thereafter, the Navajo educational system developed the aspects of a penal system.**
- Keams Canyon school opened.
- 1887**      Policy was adopted which physically forced some of the Navajo Children to attend off reservation schools, built for all Indians in such localities as Albuquerque, Phoenix and Fort Lewis.
- 1888**      35 Navajo Children were enrolled in school out of 6,867 Navajo children between the age of 6-18 years old.
- Before 1888**      **The Navajo language was strictly prohibited in schools on the reservation.**
- 1888-1934**      The Navajo language was allowed to be spoken only when used for Bible instruction.

# Navajo Education in 1890s

- 1890 Another boarding school was established at Grand Junction, Colorado to serve all Southwestern tribes. Some Navajo children were sent to the school.
- 1891 Indian Education. A Congressional Act authorized the Commissioner of Indian Affairs "to make and enforce by proper means" rules and regulations to ensure that Indian children attended schools designed and administered by non-Indians.
- 1893 Indian Education - This Congressional Act made school attendance for Indian children compulsory and authorized the BIA to withhold rations and government annuities to parents who did not send their children to school.
- 1895 Day school opened in Tohatchi, New Mexico.
- 1896 113 students came to school at Fort Defiance without force and remained throughout the year.
- 1898 First movie filmed in New Mexico, Indian Day School by Thomas A. Edison.

# Navajo Education in 1900-20s

**1900-1910** Boarding schools opened up on the Navajo Reservation; the first six boarding schools were built in Tuba City (1902), Shiprock (1903), Tohatchi (1904), Crownpoint (1909), Leupp (1909) and Chinle (1910).

**1899** The Navajo Methodist Mission school was established at Hogback, New Mexico with classes beginning with just 13 students. In 1912 it was moved to Farmington, New Mexico and in 1991 it was transferred to the Navajo and became the Navajo Preparatory School.

**December 3, 1902** An industrial boarding-school for the Navajos, erected by Mother Drexel, was opened at St. Michael's, and has since been conducted by her community, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. By 1910, the school is attended by 150 Navajo pupils. St. Michaels Mission School was opened. It only served only the lower grades until 1946 when a high school curriculum was added. In 1950 a high school building was built. It became an all-girls school in 1966, but allowed Boys to enroll again in the 1980's.



# Navajo Education in 1900-20s

- 1902 Ganado Mission School was opened. Initially the classes were conducted in the home of one of the missionaries while a school was being built. A high school was added, but because of the expansion of public schools on the reservation, the mission school was turned into a junior college in the 1970s. The mission school also added health services as a part of its mission.
- 1903 Michigan based Christain Reformed Church bought the Smith Ranch outside Gallup, New Mexico and established Rehoboth Mission. A boarding school was established to serve the Navajo and Zuni people. A high school was added in 1946 and in the 1970s it was turned from a boarding school into a day school. In 1910 the mission added a hospital.
- 1908 Executive Order authorized issuance of patent of land for the Sisters of Blessed Sacrament to operate a school on the Navajo Reservation.
- 1911 **First Public School on Navajo-Window Rock**
- 1913 Toadlena Boarding School Established.
- 1910-1920 Additional boarding schools built at Crownpoint, Tonalea, and Fort Wingate.
- During this time, several Navajo youngsters were sent to off reservation schools, including the Carlisle Industrial School in PA and the Sherman Institute in OK.

# Navajo Education in 1900-20s

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- 1924 President Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act which granted citizenship status to American Indians.
- 1925 Fort Wingate Boarding School Established.
- 1926 Secretary of Interior requested a thorough study of Indian conditions in the United States. The result is what is usually referred to as the Merriam Report.
- 1926 A national study was commissioned to analyze federal Indian policies and to make recommendations. Lewis Merriam was selected to conduct a comprehensive survey of the social and economic conditions of the American Indian.
- 1928 **Indian** **The Merriam Report published. The report criticized almost every aspect of the educational system, and recommended that instead of trying to change the Indian student to fit the dominant educational system, a special program be designed to meet the special qualities and needs of the Indian child. The report criticized the “boarding school” approach.**
- 1928 Of the 13,400 Navajo children between the ages of 6-18 5,000 or 35% were enrolled in a school.

# Navajo Education in 1930s

- 1930's**      Efforts were made to implement the recommendations of the Merriam Report.
- 1933**      John Collier became the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He sought to improve the existing schools, reduce and eliminate boarding schools, and develop day schools that would become community centers.
- 1934**      **The Navajo language was finally allowed to be spoken in schools thanks to the efforts of John Collier, the commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1933- 1945 (Lockard, 1995, p. 25).**  
The BIA operated eight boarding and 9 day schools on the Navajo Reservation.
- 1934**      **The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 – This Act signaled the advent of the Day School movement. It also provided for bilingual-bicultural education, adult and higher education, and Navajo teacher training.**  
  
50 new Day Schools opened on the Navajo Reservation.
- 1934**      The Indian New Deal - The brainchild of BIA director John Collier, the New Deal was an attempt to promote the revitalization of Indian cultural, lingual, governmental, and spiritual traditions. This blueprint for reform was written by non-Indians who felt they knew how to champion Indian rights.



# Navajo Education in 1930s

- 1934** Another legislation, the Johnson-O'Malley Act was passed by Congress. This law made it possible for the Indian Bureau to contract with states for health, education, and welfare services. Under JOM Act, the states entered into contracts with the Government to educate Indian children in the state's public schools. The Government paid the states tuition for the Indian children served in the public schools. This Congressional Act stipulated that the federal government was to pay states between 35 and 50 cents per day for Indian children enrolled in schools.
- 1936** Willard Beatty, initiated the eight page biweekly *Indian Education* which became an important source of information and help for employees. An important fact of *Indian Education* was the inclusion of writing at all levels of the BIA Education operations. Teachers and administrators wrote the articles.

# Navajo Education in 1940s

**1941-1945** Because of the War, the BIA's educational program was devastated through loss of personnel, deterioration of school facilities and the general upheaval brought about by the war. By 1946, 19 day schools on the Navajo Reservation were closed down.

World War II had a major impact on Navajo education. It convinced the Navajo people that formal education is necessary.

**1946** A special Navajo Tribal Council delegation traveled to Washington, DC to declare formal education to be a primary need of the Tribe and asked the Government for assistance.

**1946** St Michaels Indian School after being able to provide a free education (as well as meals and dormitory facilities) for almost 44 years, the school began to ask for a voluntary tuition fee of \$10 per student, per semester. Almost all the changes that were now being made at the school required additional expenditures and, unfortunately, tuition adjustments became a major source of income.

**1947** **The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CF-03-47) declaring compulsory education for children ages 6-16 years and required a system for accrediting schools.**

# Navajo Education in 1940s

- 1947** A major study on Navajo education was conducted by Dr. George Sanchez of the University of Texas. 66% of the Navajo population had no schooling, according to his study.
- 1948** The Krug Report released. The recommendations made by Dr. Sanchez were incorporated into the Krug Report, which influenced the passage of the next legislation (1950).
- 1948** **The Navajo-Hopi Long-Range Rehabilitation Act of 1950 P.L.81-474 was passed. This Act was designed to increase the number of school facilities on the reservation, bring education to the retarded; provide high school opportunities on and off the Reservation; and to transfer the responsibility for the education of Navajo children to the public school systems as soon as possible– J.A. Krug, then Secretary of Interior prepared and submitted to congress a program for the Rehabilitation of Navajo-Hopi Indians which led to an Act of Congress. The act authorized \$88,570,000 of which \$25,000,000 were to be expended for school construction purposes.**
- 1948-1950** These years experienced an attitude of the Federal Government which advocated a policy of termination and coercive assimilation of Indian tribes.

# Navajo Education in 1950s

- 1950** The Federally Impacted Areas Act (Impact Aid), P.L. 81-874, was passed by Congress. This law provides money to public school districts which lose tax revenues because of the presence of federal property, and is thus regarded as “in lieu of taxes” legislation. Although Indian reservations were included in the definition of “Federal property”, school districts educating Indians were excluded from receiving Impact Aid because they were using Johnson O’ Malley money for general operations.
- 1950** The School Facilities Construction Act P.L. 81-815 was passed by Congress. This law encouraged the transfer of Indian students from federal schools to public schools by authorizing federal financial assistance for construction of public schools which Indians attended. The law also provided for payments to school districts for sudden and substantial increases in school enrollment of children as a result of federal installations.
- 1950** 50% of Navajo children were enrolled in school.
- 1951 -1952** School Enrollment of Navajo students: 13,883
- 1952** The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CA-37-52) which granted consent of the Tribe to the application of state compulsory attendance laws to the Navajo Reservation.

# Navajo Education in 1950s

- 1953** The passage of P.L. 280 laid the legislative base for the termination policy; the law transferred Federal jurisdiction over law & order on Indian reservations to individual states.
- 1953** House Concurrent Resolution 108 also called for the end of Federal services to Indians. Several tribes were scheduled for termination. Navajo was not among them, however, the focus of Navajo education shifted to termination and assimilation. About 14,000 Navajo children were not in school during this year.
- 1953** Relocation - In order to deal with increasing unemployment among American Indians, the BIA enacted a new policy to persuade large numbers of Indians to relocate into urban areas. Using the lure of job training and housing, brochures depicting Indian families leading a middle-class life were distributed by the BIA. While the initial response was enthusiastic, within five years the relocation program was counted a failure, with 50% of the participants returning to their reservations. This was the first of many late 20th Century failures to "mainstream" the Indian population.

# Navajo Education in 1950s

**1953-1954** School Enrollment of Navajo 16,110

**1953** The Navajo Tribal Council established a college scholarship fund; Five years later, a Scholarship Trust Fund was created, which provided approximately \$200,000 annual interests for use as scholarship.

**1954** The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CS-34-54) to establish the Navajo Tribal Clothing Program, through which needy children would receive free clothes while in school.

**1954** BIA negotiated with school boards and other responsible individuals in towns situated around the periphery of the Navajo Reservation. The Bureau agreed to house and feed the Navajo children and the school district agreed to educate these children in the public schools.

**1954-1955** Trailer Schools were developed as apart of the Navajo Emergency Education Program (N.E.E.P.). A total of 38 different trailer schools were in operation with an enrollment of over 1,100 students. The number of trailer schools has steadily reduced until in 1959 there were but 18 with an enrollment of 661.

# Navajo Education in 1950s

**1953-1955** The Navajo Emergency Education Program was implemented. This program was crash building program on the Reservation, including expansion of many existing boarding school facilities. The goal of the Navajo Emergency Education Program was to provide functional English language skills and a basic marketable vocational skill in five years' time to Navajo adolescents. (By 1961, more than 4,000 Navajos graduated from the program). (1949-1961)

Another part of this program was the Bordertown Program. Under this program the BIA built dormitories in eight bordertowns and compensated the school districts for the construction of additional classrooms, and paid tuition for the education of Navajo students. Approximately 1,000 – 2,500 Navajo students were accommodated in the Bordertown dormitories each year. (1955 – 1973)

**1955** The BIA began formal adult education programs for the Indian tribes.

**1955** The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CO-38-55) setting up an annual enrollment and school attendance drive, to be conducted by the Tribal Council members and the Chapter officers.

# Navajo Education in 1950s

- 1958** BIA Education Office adopted a policy which deferred vocational training until the last two years of high school and its completion during the post high school years.
- Regarding use of Impact Aid, a distinction was made that JOM funds were to be used for special services for Indian students, and impact aid funds were to be used for educational services. Public school districts educating Indian students began using Impact Aid.
- 1959** The Adult Vocational Training Program (P.L. 959) was passed. Funds from this program was used for the Indian Relocation program for training for employment. Although relocation is no longer a policy of the BIA, adult vocational training continued to be utilized for a period to train and support Indians to work off the reservation.
- 1959** BIA operated 48 Reservation Boarding schools on the Navajo Reservation with 8,596 Navajo children enrolled.



# Navajo Education in 1950s

- 1959** Approximately 7,000 boys and first attended 11 off-reservation Boarding schools. Schools included: Chemewa, Oregon, Chilocco, Oklahoma, Brigham City, Utah
- 1959** 9 Reservation Day schools enrolled a total of nearly 600 students.
- 1959** 2,100 children were enrolled in Peripheral Dormitories located in Flagstaff, Winslow, Holbrook, Gallup and Aztec.
- 1959** 8,173 enrolled in Public Schools.
- 1959** 1,500 Navajo children were enrolled in about 25 mission and parochial schools located on or near the Navajo Reservation such as Rehoboth, Navajo Methodist, Ganado, St. Michaels.
- 1959** Navajo Education Committee in conjunction with Arizona State University developed and held the first college orientation program for Navajo school students. The program was designed to last 3 weeks and was primarily directed at High School seniors who were planning on entering college in the fall.

# Arizona Boarding Schools in the 1960s

Chinle  
Dennehotso  
Greasewood  
Hunters Point  
Kaibeto  
Kayenta  
Kinlichee  
Klagetoh

Leupp  
Low Mountain  
Lukachukai  
Nazlini  
Pine Springs  
Pinon  
Rock Point  
Rough Rock  
Round Rock

Seba Dalkai  
Shonto  
Steamboat  
Tolani Lake  
Tuba City  
Wide Ruins

Enrollment 5,139

# New Mexico Boarding Schools in the 1960s

Baca

Chichiltah

Coyote Canyon

Crownpoint

Crystal

Lake Valley

Mariano Lake

Nenahnezad

Pinedale

Pueblo Pintado

Red Rock

San Juan

Sanostee

Shiprock

Standing Rock

Teec Nos Pos

Thoreau

Toadlena

Tohatchi

Torreon

Twin Lakes

Whitehorse

Fort Wingate

Vocational

Enrollment 4,664

# Utah Boarding Schools in the 1960s

Aneth Boarding School  
Navajo Mountain

Enrollment 90

# Off Reservation Boarding Schools in the 1960s

Albuquerque Indian School  
Chemawas Indian School – Oregon  
Chilocco Indian School – Oklahoma  
Fort Sill Indian School – Oklahoma  
Intermountain School – Utah  
Phoenix Indian School – Arizona  
Riverside Indian School – Oklahoma  
Santa Fe Indian School – New Mexico  
Sherman Institute – California  
Stewart Indian School - Nevada

Enrollment 5,911

# Day Schools in the 1960s

Beclabito

Blue Gap

Borrego Pass

Breadsprings

Cove

Iyanbito

Jones Ranch

Red Lake

Salina Springs

Smoke Signal

White Cone

Enrollment 802

# Trailer Schools in the 1960s

Canyon Del Muerto

Coal Mine

Dilcon

Hatch's Store

Inscription House

Kimbeto (Nageezi)

Tachee

Chilchinbeto

Cottonwood

Dinnebito Dam

Indian Wells

Jeddito

Ojo Encino

Whippoorwill

Enrollment 525

# Reservation/Bordertown Dorms in the 1960s

## Reservation

Huerfano  
Naschitti  
Mexican Springs

Enrollment 256

## Bordertown

Aztec	Emmons (Winslow)
Flagstaff	Gallup
Holbrook	Ramah
Richfield	Snowflake

Enrollment 2,085



# Navajo Education in 1960s

- 1960** The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Navajo Youth Conference was held sponsored by the Education Committee.
- 1960** The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CJA-6-60) declaring a policy that the Education Committee work closely with BIA on the size and location all education facilities and authorized the Advisory Committee to approve location sites for all education facilities. The off-reservation facilities have to be approved by the Navajo Tribal Council.
- 1960-1961** Navajo Tribe awarded 370 scholarships.
- 1961 Tribal** **The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CAU-43-61) adopting a joint BIA-Navajo Council “ Navajo Education Policy Statement”. The Policy Statement contained policy objectives covering types of schools Navajo children can attend, criteria for attendance, post-secondary and adult education, and special education. There was an agreement that there will be cooperation to attack these issues jointly.**
- The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CF-12-61) authorizing the Chairman of the Navajo Nation to create a Navajo Adult Education Board to coordinate adult education activities. Instruction sites were the Chapter houses.

# Navajo Education in 1960s

**1963** The Institute of American Indian Arts was established in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**1964** Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was created. OEO provided a source of funding for experimentation in Indian controlled schools.

**1965** The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was passed by Congress. This Act provided funds for improving the education of disadvantaged children. Disadvantaged Navajo children in public schools benefitted from a variety of programs made possible by the Act, such as regional education laboratories, drop-out prevention, bilingual education, cultural enrichment programs and so forth.

Title VII of ESEA, the Bilingual Education Act was passed to demonstrate methods for providing children of limited English proficiency with instruction in their native language that would enable them to achieve in English.

The Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity (ONEO) was established. Some of its purposes were to provide preschool education, nutritional and health education, and programs to enhance Navajo culture and traditions.

**1965** Established Head Start Program

# Navajo Education in 1960s

- 1966 With funding from OEO and BIA, the Rough Rock Demonstration School began operation, as the first Indian-controlled school in the country.
- 1966 BIA became eligible to receive Title I funds to serve disadvantaged children. The academically disadvantaged children were targeted for services.
- 1968 **The Navajo Nation created and chartered the Navajo Community College by Resolution CN-95-68 as a wholly owned educational entity of the Navajo Nation. In 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (Public Law 92-189; 25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.). In 1997, the Navajo Nation officially changed the name of the Navajo Community College to Dine College by Resolution CAP-35-97. The purpose of Dine College is to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation. The mission of Dine College is to apply the principles of Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon (Dine Philosophy) to advance quality student learning through training of the mind and heart--through Nitsahakees (Thinking), Nahata (Planning), lina (Living), and Sihasin (Assurance); in study of the Dine language, history, philosophy, and culture; in preparation for further studies and employment in a multicultural and technological world; and in fostering social responsibility, community service, and scholarly research that contribute to the social, economic, and cultural well-being of the Navajo Nation.**

# Navajo Education in 1960s

**1968**      **Bilingual Education Act**

**1969**      A report: Indian Education: A National Tragedy A National Challenge was released. The report (more commonly known as the Kennedy Report) was the most comprehensive study ever made on Indian Education. The report was an indictment of Federal Indian education. The report concluded that the most fundamental need in Indian Education is a change in point of view. The Navajo Reservation schools figured prominently in the Kennedy Report.

**School**      The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution to adopt the Navajo Tribal Community Board Act (CAU-87-69), establishing Inter-agency and local school boards.

# Navajo Education in 1970s

- 1970** The College of Ganado was established. The College of Ganado was a two-year private Presbyterian Church-related community college. The College was chartered by both the Navajo and Hopi tribes.
- 1970** The Ramah Community won a grant contract allowing them to form their own school board through a local election. They won the right for their curriculum to include Navajo culture and history and employ teacher aids who did not meet the state requirement of a high school diploma. (9/12/70).
- 1970** **Nixon's "Special Message on Indian Affairs."** President Richard M. Nixon delivered a speech to Congress which denounced past federal policies, pronounced the end of termination, and called for a new era of self-determination for Indian Peoples.
- 1971** The Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution (CJN-60-71) creating the Navajo Division of Education.

# Navajo Education in 1970s

1971

Congress passed the Navajo Community College of 1971 (P.L. 95-189). It provided funds to Navajo Community College equivalent to BIA funding for BIA post-high school programs, such as the Haskell Institute.



*Rep. Wayne Aspinall (in suit) said he felt God when he held the digging stick used to break ground for Navajo Community College. Left to right: Tony Tsosie of Tsaille community, Medicine Man Charlie Benally, Aspinall, and then Navajo Tribal Chairman Peter MacDonald.*

# Navajo Education in 1970s

1972 The Indian Education Act (P.L. 92-318) was passed. **This law gave impetus to the movement for Indian community control of education.** It authorized funds for a series of new programs in elementary, secondary, and higher education. The Act increased the control of Indian parents and the Indian community over federal education programs for public schools.

*The Navajo Division of Education was funded and began operation as a tribal governmental entity.*

At a national level, an Office of Indian Education, a Deputy Commissioner of Indian Education and a National Advisory Council on Indian Education were established. This Act did not address the need of Indians in BIA schools and did not provide financial assistance to all Indian children in public schools.

1975 **Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638).** This law (ISDEA) recognized the obligation of the US to provide for maximum participation by American Indians in federal services to and programs for Indian communities, established a goal to provide education and services permitting Indian children to achieve, and declared a commitment to maintain the federal government's trust relationship and responsibility to individual Indians and tribes.

# Navajo Education in 1970s

1975 Title I, the Indian Self-Determination Act strengthens self government through contracting the operations of federal programs to Indian tribes, upon their request. Under this Title, 15 schools or education programs contracted by local communities.

One parent building Title II, the Indian Education Assistance Act addresses Indian Education in public schools. part amends the JOM Act by requiring an education plan and the establishment of a committee to receive JOM funds. The other part authorized federal assistance for school facilities in public school district that serve Indian on or near reservations.

The Navajo Nation contracted the operation of the Johnson O'Malley Program from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There are 29 eligible subcontractors for JOM funds.

1975 The passing of ISDEA allowed the creation of the American Indian Policy Review Commission (AIPRC) to conduct a comprehensive review of historical federal Indian policies in an effort to strengthen future Indian policies and programs. The Meriam Report of 1928 was the last time the U.S. reviewed tribal sovereignty and federal obligations to Indian Tribes.



# Navajo Education in 1970s

- 1975** New Mexico enacted House Bill 8, (Senator Leo Watchman Sr.) which created an Indian Education Department (IED) within the New Mexico State Department of Education (NMSDE). This action in New Mexico validated the state's commitment to Indian education. The main objective at that time was to provide direct assistance to local tribes/pueblos and school districts to address the unique educational needs of Indian children enrolled in New Mexico public schools and monitor district's compliance with Title VII, VIII & JOM federal funds. To assist the IED/NMSDE, the state legislature established a seven member Advisory Council on Indian Education, appointed by the state superintendent to represent the tribal groups and native urban populations. This seven member advisory council was instrumental in establishing the current Indian Education structure.
- 1976** Navajo Academy, a school for talented and highly motivated Navajo students was established by the Navajo Tribe on the campus of College of Ganado. The Academy was relocated to Farmington, New Mexico in 1978.

# Navajo Education in 1970s

1978 **The Education Amendments of 1978 (P.L. 95-561)** was passed by Congress. Title XI, the Basic Indian Education Act augmented the Self-Determination Act. **Title XI provided for a reorganization of the BIA, increased parental and tribal participation in the education of their children, establishment of education standards for BIA schools and dormitory operations, and moved control over agency area education functions from the commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Director, Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP).**

Part of this legislation also amends the Impact Aid by adding a weighted funding formula and requiring tribal and parental participation policies and procedures.

1978 **P.L. 95-561** Establish to create Contract BIE Schools Personnel, Policy Development, Curriculum Development and Budget. **The future direction for Indian education is community and tribal control.** Since the enactment of P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act, and the subsequent P.L. 95-561 Title XI, the Basic Indian Education Act, virtually every American Indian community must make decisions about the education of their children. The right to control education is not something new but is a historical and an inalienable right now being recovered. That control will be exercised through P.L. 93-638 contract schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and through the control of those bureau schools selected by the tribes.

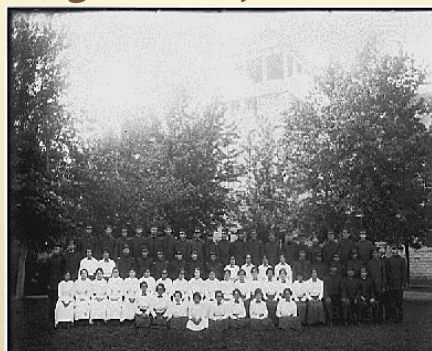
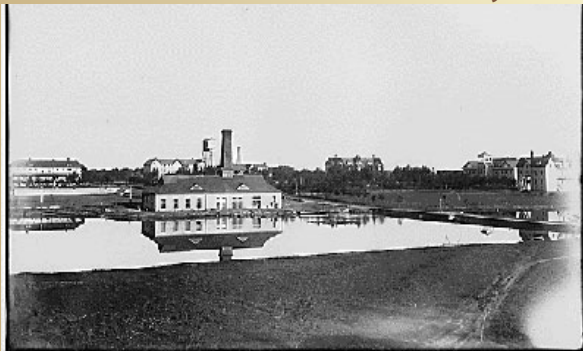
# Navajo Education in 1970s

- 1978 **P.L. 95-602 Rehabilitation Act** passed by Congress. Community service employment program for the handicapped and comprehensive services for independent living.
- 1978 **Tribally-Controlled Community College Assistance Act (P.L. 95-471)**. This law provided for federal grants to tribally-controlled community colleges. By the 1990s, 29 tribally controlled colleges were located throughout Indian Country, each of which offers curricula based on the needs of the college's tribal population of all ages. Providing \$4,000 per student funding annually for operation and maintenance of the College.
- The Navajo Tribal Council adopted the Navajo Nation Education Policies. The Policies are broad statements of the educational needs and aspirations of the Navajo people, and the policies were intended to apply to all schools serving the Navajo Nation.
- 1978 **Navajo Nation Council on the Handicap.**
- 1979 Navajo Skills Center was founded in Crownpoint, NM to teach Navajo citizens vocational and technical skills to find jobs and was a success in the movement of early Vocational education.
- 1979 The Department of Youth/Community Services was established by Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, Resolution GSCO-81-95.

# Navajo Education in 1980s

1980 Chief Manuelito Scholarships

**June 3, 1980** The doors to the Chilocco Indian School are closed. They will not open for 11 years, and then only to be a drug rehab center. **Some Chilocco Facts: 5,542** students received a high school diploma from Chilocco. They represented **126** Tribes. Over **18,000** students actually attended Chilocco from 1884 - 1980. The Cherokee had **688** graduates, Choctaw- **573**, Navajo - **545**, Creek - **452**. Female graduates - **2,741** and male-**2,801**. Special Navajo Program began in 1949. First 5th Yr Class graduated in 1952 and the last class in 1964 with total 5th yr Navajo graduates of **574** students. From 1950 to 1974, **640** Post Grads representing 66 tribes completed Voc. or College education at Chilocco. *The first Navajo to graduate from Chilocco was Bertha Shipley in 1915.*



<http://www.chilocco.org/Home/tabid/53/Default.aspx>

# Navajo Education in 1980s

## 1983 Navajo Education and Scholarship Foundation established

The Navajo Nation acquired an affiliate office with North Central Accreditation. The Navajo North Central Accreditation (NCA) office was established in Window Rock, Arizona. So far, the Navajo NCA office has accredited 47 schools, with 7 schools being on candidacy status.

## 1984 The Navajo Tribal Council adopted the Permanent Trust Fund.

## 1985 The Navajo Skills Center became the Crownpoint Institute of Technology.

## 1986 Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse act of 1986. One part of this omnibus legislation was the "Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment", addressed the alcohol and substance problems faced by the American tribes.

## 1987 Navajo Nation School Enrollment 31,211

# Navajo Education in 1980s

1988

The [Hawkins/Stafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Amendments](#) of 1988 was passed by Congress. This Act reauthorized almost every federal elementary, secondary, and adult education program through 1993, created several need education programs, and revise the auditing procedures for auditing of federal supported local programs.

**P.L. 100-297 “Trially Controlled Schools Act”** provided tribal governments or tribal organizations (i.e. school boards) the ability to convert existing BIE-operated (federal) schools into P.L. 100-297 grant schools who total authority over schools. Under P.L. 100-297, funding goes directly to the schools and reduced many burdensome regulations. Currently a majority (36 schools) of all BIE-funded Navajo schools are P.L. 100-297 grant schools with 32 BIE-operated schools.

1989

The American Indian College Fund was created so tribal colleges and universities and private partners could raise scholarship funds and funding for the tribal colleges. The Fund has raised millions of dollars and other resources, including capital funding for campus infrastructure in its mission, and last year awarded nearly 6,000 scholarships to American Indian students.

# Navajo Education in 1990s

- 1990** **Native American Languages Act (Public Law 101-477).** This law made it U.S. policy to “preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages.” Thus, the federal government encourages and supports of the use of Native languages as a medium of instruction in schools; recognizes the right of Indian tribes to give official status to their languages for conducting their own business; supports proficiency in Native languages by granting the same academic credit as for comparable proficiency in a foreign language; and encourages schools to include native languages in the curriculum in the same way as foreign languages
- 1990 Navajo Nation School Enrollment: 32,206
- 1994** Congress provided Land Grant status for tribal colleges and universities in U.S. Agricultural legislation, which allowed for equity funding, access to research and extension programs, and other infrastructure grants and loans offered by agencies, Rural Development.
- 1995** The Name of the "Navajo Division of Education" (NDOE) was changed to the "Division of Diné Education" (DODE) per Government Services Committee Resolution GSCO-81-95.
- 1995** The Department of Head Start (DHS), Office of Navajo Nation Library was established per Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, Resolution GSCO-81-95.

# Navajo Education in 1990s

- 1996**      **Executive Order, October 21 on Tribal Colleges and Universities.** President Clinton authorized a White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities within the US Department of Education to continue the support and development of tribal colleges into the 21st Century.
- 1996**      **National American Indian Heritage Month** - President Clinton declared November of each year to be National American Indian Heritage Month.
- 4-26-1999**      The Navajo Nation Council adopted Resolution CAP-48-99 the Navajo Nation Privacy and Access to Information Act . Signed by Navajo Nation President Kelsey A. Begaye May 4, 1999.
- 1999**      Navajo Nation School Enrollment: 51,294



# Navajo Education in 2000's

- 2001** The Office of the North Central Association, Monitoring and Technical Services (NCAMTS), Johnson O'Malley (JOM), Office of Educational Research and Statistics (OERS), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS), Office of Dine' Culture, Language and Community Services (ODCLCS), Office of Dine' Science, Math and Technology (ODSMT) was established per Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, Resolution GSCAP-35-01.
- 2001** The name of the Department of Youth/Community Services (DYCS) was changed to the Office of Diné Youth (ODY) by Government Services Committee Resolution GSCAP-35-0.
- 01-29-02** New Mexico - Indian Leaders Endorse Proposed Indian Education Act, HB28 and SB198, Pending Before Legislature
- 2002** **No Child Left Behind Act, Public Law 107-110, enacted January 8, 2002.** Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and amends the Education Amendments of 1978.

# Navajo Education in 2000's

**2003** The structure of public education in New Mexico changed. The NMSDE transferred to the governor's office and was renamed the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) led by a Secretary of Education. Concurrently, the 46th Legislature of New Mexico passed House Bill 150 (Representative Ray Begaye) and Senate Bill 115 (Senator Leonard Tsosie), currently known as the New Mexico Indian Education Act. The bill also changed the organization of the Indian Education Department (IED) and provided state funds to assist programs, tribes, and schools addressing Indian students' educational needs. A new position appointing an Assistant Secretary of Education was created, which elevated the Indian Education Department to a Division. The Advisory Council membership was increased to fourteen members to represent the tribes/pueblos and assist the Assistant Secretary of Education. A satellite office was established in the Northwest area of New Mexico to increase assistance to tribes/pueblos and public schools that serve Native American students in that region.

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# Navajo Education in 2000's

- 2005** Navajo Nation Council passed the Navajo Sovereignty & Education Act of 2005 that established a Navajo Nation Board of Education and Department of Diné Education as the administrative and regulatory agency to oversee operations of all schools under its jurisdiction. (Resolution CJY-37-05)
- 2006** Navajo Nation Council approved changing the name of Crownpoint Institute of Technology became Navajo Technical College (Navajo Nation Council Resolution CN-58-06), in part because of the expansion of services into the Arizona side of the Nation. The school became fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.
- 2006** Arizona Department of Education established the Office of Indian Education.  
<http://www.ade.state.az.us/asd/indianed/HB15-244.pdf>  
(AZ Indian Education Act went into effect in July 2006)
- 2006** Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed legislation (CN-57-06) authorizing the Navajo Nation Attorney General to file a lawsuit against the United States for the alleged breach of fiduciary duties to the Nation. This leads to the establishment of the “Sihasin Fund” in 2014, which provides financial support for economic and education developments of the Nation.

# Navajo Education in 2000's

- 2007      The Indian Education Act was amended by SB1049 and HB 892 which gave more responsibility to the NMPED to address Indian education needs and create priorities, increased the Advisory Council from 14 to 16 members, added a P-20 (Pre-K to Higher Education) requirements, facilitate collaboration with Higher Education stakeholders and      added timelines with new indicators to the status report.
- 2008      New Mexico became the first State in the nation to formally adopt a Navajo language textbook co-authored by Dr. Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie. Ed.D. Starting in the fall of 2009, the textbook, called "Din Bizaad Binahoo'aah," or "Rediscovering the Navajo Language", will be used in 10 New Mexico school districts that offer Navajo Instruction as well as Bureau of Indian Education schools.
- 2010      Navajo Nation School Enrollment: 88,701; 39,215 (on); 49,486 (off) (Arizona, New Mexico, & Utah public schools; BIE-OIEP; Grant)

# Navajo Education in 2000's

- 2012** Navajo Nation Council Amends Title 12 of the Navajo Nation “Dine Higher Education Grant Fund”
- 2012** Navajo Technical College becomes Navajo Technical University (Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJY-35-13). Offering
- 2012** Navajo Nation Council passed HEHSCO-131-12, which reaffirmed the AdvancED Navajo Nation Office as a permanent and distinct unit of the Department of Education (CAP-13-83)
- 2012** Navajo Nation Council passes Sales Tax Revenues Increase Scholarship Fund
- 2017** Navajo Language Bilingual Seal is added to Arizona, New Mexico and Utah High School Diplomas
- 2017** Dine School Accountability Plan is approved September 13, 2017.

# Navajo Education in 2000's

2017 Navajo Nation Enrollment 84,084

2017 Navajo Nation Teacher Appreciation Day, May 9.

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Roessel, R. *Navajo education, 1948-1978, its progress and its problems*, Navajo Curriculum Center, Rough Rock Demonstration School (Rough Rock, Ariz), 1979.

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A handbook for Teachers of Navajo Children, Training for all Teachers Center for Indian Education.

McCoy, Melody L., *Indian Education Legal Support Project, "Tribalizing Indian Education"*, The Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, Colorado, January 2005.

The Treaty of 1868, Treaty Between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians, Dine (Navajo) Language History Tradition Series, February 2018.

# Books on Navajo Education

## BOOKS ON BOARDING SCHOOLS

*American Indian Children at School, 1850-1930*, by Michael C. Coleman (University Press of Mississippi, 1993).

*Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940*, by Brenda Child (University of Nebraska Press, 1998).

*Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875-1928*, by David Wallace Adams (University Press of Kansas, 1995).

*Indians of Carlisle*, by William Heuman (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1965).

*Rapid City Indian School: 1898-1933*, by Scott Riney (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999).

*They Called it Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School*, by K. Tsianina Lomawaima (University of Nebraska Press, 1994).



# Books on Navajo Education

## GENERAL BOOKS ON EDUCATION

*Education and the American Indian: The Road to Self-Determination Since 1928*, by Margaret Connell Szasz (University of New Mexico Press, 1999).

*Next Steps: Research and Practice to Advance Indian Education*, edited by Karen Gayton Swisher and John W. Tippeconnic III (ERIC, 1999).

*Teaching American Indian Students*, edited by Jon Reyhner (University of Oklahoma Press, 1992).

## A SAMPLING OF PERIODICALS

*Journal of American Indian Education*

*Tribal College: Journal of American Indian Higher Education*

*Indian Education Newsletter*

*Indian School Journal*

*The Phoenix Redskin*

*Navajo Education Newsletter*

*Native American, Devoted to Indian Education*

*The Red Man: An Illustrated Magazine Printed by Indians, 1909-1917*

*The Native American Rights Fund*