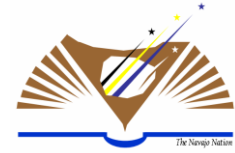




## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 670 · Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
PHONE (928) 871 – 7475 · FAX (928) 871 – 7474



**Jonathan Nez**  
**President**

**Myron Lizer**  
**Vice-President**

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Indian Education District Initiative at Cuba Independent School District. Many of the children in our communities of Torreon, Ojo Encino, and Counselor, are served by CISD in grades PreK-12th. With a majority of the student population being Native American at CISD, and most of those students being Navajo, it is our responsibility to ensure that our students are being supported in their educational endeavors by CISD, to the best of their ability.

We recognize the importance of native language and cultural revitalization for our children and its importance in supporting them in success at school and in life. We also recognize the many obstacles that our children face that can hinder their academic success, including but not limited to social, emotional, behavioral, and physical factors. It is important to us that our communities and our schools work together in addressing these issues to promote the best lives and futures for our children.

The Indian Education District Initiative offered by New Mexico Public Education Department supports and emphasizes student success through Native American language and culture. CISD has applied for this initiative with respect to that, and has specified how they will use the funding, if awarded. In continuing with their work and goals of promoting Native American culture and language, they intend to fund personnel who will continue to support the academic success of our children in the classroom, as well as promote health and wellness at home.

If funded, CISD intends to modify the district-wide Family Center into the CISD Native American Student Support Program (NASSP). The Family Center Liaison position will be developed into the Native American Student Support Program Director, who will further develop and provide support for the Native American students at CISD. The NASSP Director will ensure that resources will be provided to support the cultural identities of all Native American students and a cohesive district-wide support system for our students. More specifically, the NASSP Director will offer support in the following: Native American grant application and implementation; district-wide Native American initiatives and implementation; coordination of parent outreach efforts; collaboration with tribal leaders, Indian Education Parent Committee members, parents, communities, and Dine Language teachers; coordination of staff development related to Native American students' needs; coordination of consultants and volunteers who support Native American language and culture; and coordination and support of the CISD Bilingual Seal of Language Achievement. With these listed duties, the NASSP Director will work to support our Native American students in achieving academic success as well as offering support at home to those in need.


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### **NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Lastly, CISD has made many strides in employing members of the local community, as well as Navajo speaking employees to work in various positions, focusing on the success of our Native American children by working with the students, staff, parents, community, and the chapters that support these communities. Through continued collaboration between all parties and with the help of various sources, including the Indian Education District Initiative, we believe that CISD can help our children achieve academic success through promotion of Navajo culture and language, and we offer our full support.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy L. Tracy', written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Roy L. Tracy

Print Name

Program Manager

Title

Department of Dine Education-Navajo Nation

Organization