

## CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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.

**PO Box 70, #50 County Rd 13, Cuba, NM 87013, Phone: 575-289-3211, Fax: 575 289-3314**

*Cuba Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment. Cuba Independent School District also prohibits the use of racial, ethnic, and/or sexual slurs, including sexual harassment. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in a school meeting or hearing, or if you wish to receive assistance or information regarding student grievances, language translations of District policy, Section 504 or Title IX, please contact the Superintendent's Office at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. The district Title IX Officer, Dr. Karen Sanchez-Griego Ed.D. may be contacted at the address or phone number listed above. For concerns at the school level, contact Ms. Romero, Elementary – Ext. 403, Mr. Jacquez, Middle School – Ext. 302, or Dr. Vallejo, High School – Ext. 202.*

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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,

Signature

George Werrita

Print Name

Chapter Pres.

Title

5/12/2020

Date

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