



National Indian Education Association

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NIEA RESOLUTION #06-14

Title: REAFFIRM NATIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURE IN INDIAN EDUCATION

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, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indians, Alaska Native, 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 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 Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education is conducting Title VII, Indian Education Formula Grant Technical Assistance workshops for tribes, school districts and Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act stipulates specific requirements for the Indian Education Formula Grant to meet the same challenging state standards of all other students in the state; and

WHEREAS, in meeting these challenging state standards, Indian Education has been challenged by federal officials who recommend Indian Education programs focus on reading, math and sciences which is important; however, this direction can be construed as compromising the goal for providing culturally relevant support, especially in providing Native languages and culture; and

WHEREAS, tribes have a long history of supporting and endorsing the goals for providing culturally relevant opportunities and education for our member tribes, educators and students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association and National Congress of American Indians collaborate with the U.S. Department of Education to reaffirm the goal for providing for the culturally related academic needs of our Indian students, with a priority on Native languages and culture; and

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the following resolution was dully considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors on November 30, 2006 at which a quorum was present.

Verlie Ann Malina Wright

Dr. Verlie Ann Malina Wright, President (2006-07)
National Indian Education Association