

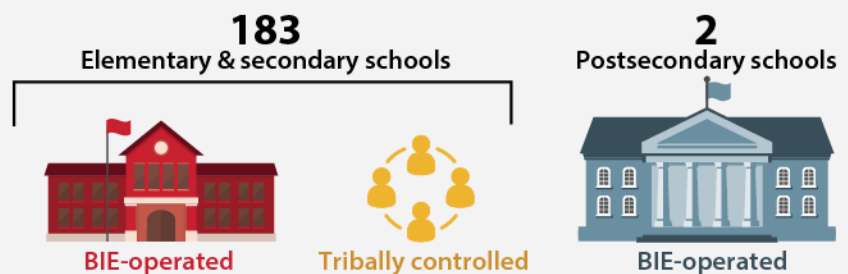


Major FY2024 Federal Funding for the Bureau of Indian Education School System

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funds, administers, and operates a school system for members of federally recognized Indian Tribes and their children. The BIE school system is one response to the federal government's trust responsibility for the education and well-being of Tribes.

The BIE system comprises 183 elementary and secondary schools, two postsecondary schools, and associated administrative offices.

Federal policy promotes tribal self-determination by enabling tribal entities to manage federal programs. About two-thirds of the elementary and secondary schools are tribally controlled, while the remainder are operated by BIE. Both postsecondary schools are BIE-operated.







BIE elementary and secondary school enrollment was almost 37,000 in academic year 2023-2024. BIE postsecondary school enrollment in fall 2023 was over 1,100—all undergraduate students. Of students who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native in public elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher education, 8% enrolled in BIE elementary and secondary schools (including tribally controlled schools) and 1% enrolled in BIE postsecondary schools, respectively. Several federal agencies and programs support the BIE school system. The programs listed below provided the largest amounts of funding in FY2024, but all of the schools received funding from additional programs. For each program, the administering subagency and types of eligible BIE schools are noted.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Programs of Regional and National Significance (SAMHSA) | \$7   



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Grants to Local Educational Agencies (OESE OFG) | \$129  

Special Education Grants to States (OSERS) | \$107  

Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (OESE OFG) | \$11  



Indian Education Special Programs and National Activities (OESE OIE) | \$9   




21st Century Community Learning Centers (OESE OFG) | \$9  




Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies (OESE OIE) | \$7  

Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants (OESE OFG) | \$7  




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Indian Student Equalization Program (BIE) | \$488  




Education Construction, Excluding TCFI&R (BIE and IA) | \$219   

Facilities Operations & Facilities Maintenance (BIE and IA) | \$154   



Tribal Grant Support Costs (BIE) | \$96 

Legacy Restoration Fund (DOI and IA) | \$95   




Student Transportation (BIE) | \$70  

Education Management (BIE) | \$67   

Haskell & Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (BIE) | \$30 

Education Program Enhancements (BIE) | \$21  

Eligible program recipients

-  BIE-operated elementary & secondary schools
-  Tribally controlled elementary & secondary schools
-  BIE-operated postsecondary schools

Sources: Congressional Budget Justifications and other agency documents; U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and Elementary/Secondary Information System application.

Notes: SAMHSA is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. OESE is the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. OFG is the Office of Formula Grants. OSERS is the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. OIE is the Office of Indian Education. TCFI&R is the Tribal Colleges Facilities Improvement & Repair program. IA is Indian Affairs. DOI is the U.S. Department of the Interior. Some FY2024 funding amounts are preliminary. Amounts paid by the DOI under 105(I) leases are a major source of funding, but the amounts are not publicly reported. The graphic excludes funding for BIE programs that do not directly support the BIE school system (i.e., early childhood education, support for public school students, tribally controlled colleges and universities, and postsecondary student aid).

Information as of June 24, 2025. Prepared by Cassandra Dortch, Specialist in Education Policy, and Jamie Bush, Visual Information Specialist. For more information on the programs, see CRS Report RL34205, *Indian Elementary-Secondary Education: Programs, Background, and Issues*.

Author Information

Cassandra Dortch
Specialist in Education Policy

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.