



Wyoming Department of Education

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MemDate: August 6, 2013

To: Members, Joint Education Interim Committee

From: Dr. David Holbrook, Director of Federal Programs
Kim Morrow, School Foundation Program
Wyoming Department of Education

Subject: Wind River Indian Reservation Education Programs

Background

During the 2007 General Session, the Wyoming Legislature instituted W.S. § 21-4-601 to address conditions of severe unemployment, poverty and the lack of adequate job skills on the Wind River Indian Reservation¹. By assisting the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes with education programs, the Legislature held that the maintenance of education programs unique to Indian students is of mutual benefit to the tribes and the State, reducing future financial needs of those students as tribal members and as Wyoming residents.

Funding for W.S. § 21-4-601 is provided under a professional services contract between the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the Joint Tribal Business Council (JTBC) of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Indian Tribes. These funds provide program enhancements, services for students at risk of failure in school and other services essential to the success and welfare of students residing on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Funding

To determine the biennial funding amount for the program, the WDE is directed to calculate the average per student funding amount under the Wyoming education resource grant model for Fremont School Districts 14, 21 and 38. The average per student funding amount is multiplied by St. Stephens' student count to determine the gross funding amount. Funding from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) that is comparable to Wyoming's funding model is subtracted from the gross amount to be paid to the JTBC.

Pursuant to W.S. § 21-4-601(d), and in order to release fiscal year (FY) 2014 funds to the JTBC, an annual report must be submitted by St. Stephens to the Joint Education Interim Committee, the Select Committee on Tribal Relations, the Governor, the Director of the Wyoming Department of Education, and the JTBC. The professional services contract with the JTBC also requires the following deliverables to be addressed in the annual report:

- 1. Contractor shall assure completion of an updated Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) 2012-2013 District/School Improvement Plan (D/SIP), for St. Stephens Indian School.**

¹ 2007, Wyo. Sess. Laws, Ch. 200, Sec. 3.

- 2. Contractor shall assure implementation of D/SIP for St. Stephens Indian School, and provide evidence of implementation of the goals as outlined in the D/SIP through a visitation schedule for monitoring and provide a written report as outlined in the D/SIP.**
- 3. Contractor shall provide a summary of expenditures related to the D/SIP Goals for St. Stephens Indian School, which includes a copy of the original budget, a copy of actual expenditures in each original budget line with brief details outlining what was purchased under each budget line and a budget narrative for the 2012-2013 school year.**
- 4. Contractor shall meet with Agency representatives to implement a plan to report all federal and state data/information deemed appropriate by the Agency.**

The attached report from Mr. Mike Hejtmanek, Superintendent of St. Stephens Indian School, addresses these requirements.

In February of 2013, the first payment of \$1,187,097 for the 2013-2014 biennium was paid. As of the date of this memo, the deliverables outlined in the professional services contract with the WDE have been received which allows the 2013-14 payment of \$1,187,097 to be distributed. This payment will be distributed in two equal amounts. The first half in the amount of \$593,548.50 will be processed within a week and the second half for the same amount will be generated in January 2014.

As a result of increased model generated resources to Fremont School Districts 14, 21 and 38, St. Stephens funding for the 2015-16 biennium will increase in proportion with the average per student funding level calculated through statutory requirements. The Department's calculation for the 2015-16 biennium is \$2,699,438 resulting in an exception request of \$325,244 over the 2013-14 biennium. The table below provides historical funding amounts for education programs on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

School Year	St. Stephens Funding
2008-09	\$ 1,049,946
2009-10	\$ 1,049,946
2010-11	\$ 1,106,622
2011-12	\$ 1,106,622
2012-13	\$ 1,187,097
2013-14	\$ 1,187,097
2014-15 (Est.)	\$ 1,349,719
2015-16 (Est.)	\$ 1,349,719

Source: WDE payment history and proposed 2015-16 budget.

Please contact David Holbrook at 307-777-6260 or david.holbrook@wyo.gov or Kim Morrow at 307-777-6000 or kimberly.morrow@wyo.gov if you require any additional information.

Attachment

cc: Dave Nelson, LSO

Matthew Willmarth, LSO