



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 3, 2005

Jerome M. Jainga
President
Tribal Education Departments
National Assembly
P.O. Box 18000
Boulder, CO 80308

Dear President Jainga:

This is in response to your recent letter concerning the Office of Indian Education's (OIE) Formula Grants to Local Educational Agencies program. We appreciate the comments and recommendations of the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) to increase tribal participation. Specifically, TEDNA's recommendations are to expand the requirements for tribal eligibility and to increase the opportunities for Tribal Education Departments (TEDs) in the administration of the Formula Grants by requiring LEAs to collaborate with local TEDs.

As you know, the proposed recommendations require a change in legislation. Although OIE is committed to improving the legislation in areas that enhance the education of Indian students, we encourage TEDNA and other Indian groups to also submit their specific legislative recommendations to the Department of Education and Congress as we prepare for reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act legislation. We look forward to working closely and collaboratively with you in developing a legislative framework that meets the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of Indian students.

Sincerely,

Victoria Vasques
Director
Office of Indian Education