

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Opposing the Proposed FY2020 Budget Reductions for the Bureau of Indian Education*

Resolution No. 19-13



**BILL JOHN BAKER**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



**BILL ANOATUBBY**  
GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS,** Oklahoma is home to five Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, including four that reside in the jurisdiction of ITC tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** the FY2020 Federal Budget request eliminates funding in the BIE budget for Replacement School Construction, Replacement Facility Construction and Repair and Employee Housing costs; and



**GARY BATTON**  
CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** there is currently a backlog of BIE schools in desperate need of facility repairs, improvements and new construction; and

**WHEREAS,** some of these facilities, including those in our jurisdiction, are aging, insufficient and generally unable to accommodate the current number of students and exposes them to safety hazards ranging from inadequate plumbing to vulnerable security systems that places our students at risk; and



**JAMES R. FLOYD**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** the FY2020 Federal Budget request also reduces funding for Scholarships and Adult Education, Special Education Scholarships and Science Post Graduate Scholarships; and

**WHEREAS,** reducing funding for these programs hinders the progress our tribes have made in improving educational and employment opportunities for our citizens.



**GREG P. CHILCOAT**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes the proposed funding reductions to the Bureau of Indian Education as outlined in the FY2020 budget request and urges the United States Congress to fund these programs, at minimum, to the current level.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the ITC urges Congress to explore creative options to address the BIE school construction backlog, such as, adopting a Joint Venture program or similar program to address these critical needs.

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TRIBES**

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

James R. Floyd  
James R. Floyd, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Patton  
Gary Patton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Greg P. Chilcoat  
Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

S. John Baker  
FOR Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation