



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 25-25

Title: Upholding the Federal Trust Responsibility to Protect Tribal Education Programs

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the United States has trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations for the education of Indian children, as established through the U.S. Constitution and treaties, and reaffirmed in statutes, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Education administer critical programs supporting Native students, rooted in the trust responsibility, treaties, federal laws, and case precedents, including the Snyder Act of 1921, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988, the Johnson O'Malley Act of 1935, P.L. 81-874 (1950), Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the Indian Education Act of 1972; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida shares many priorities with the current Administration in ensuring that federal education funds are used effectively, that education is directed by local communities and parents, that unnecessary federal regulations are minimized, that federal funding mechanisms are streamlined, and that Tribal economic engines are strengthened; and

WHEREAS, the potential restructuring or dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education poses significant threats to the stability and accessibility of these vital resources guaranteed through trust and treaty obligations; and

WHEREAS, the United States' trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Country are mandatory obligations, not discretionary budget items, and must not be subject to defunding or elimination; and

WHEREAS, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act declares that "a national goal of the United States is to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable tribes and local communities to obtain the quantity and quality of educational services that will permit Indian children to compete and excel in areas of their choice; and to achieve the measure of self-determination essential to their social and economic well-being;" and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida requests that the Administration issue exemptions to any federal policies that would undermine the federal government's trust responsibility in Indian Country, including but not limited to Indian education programs; and

WHEREAS, past initiatives, such as the Great American Outdoors Act and the Executive Order on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, have demonstrated the Administration's commitment to Tribal Nations, and Tlingit & Haida is committed to continuing this partnership to address the challenges facing Indian education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska urges the President and Congress to uphold the federal trust responsibility by ensuring the continuation of all Tribal-specific education programs, including those with Tribal set-asides; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any changes to the administration of federal education programs must include meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and ensure that funding mechanisms remain intact for the benefit of Native students; and

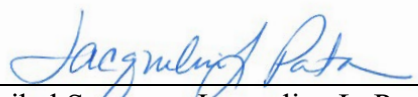
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida directs the appropriate tribal officials to engage with federal agencies and legislative bodies to advocate for the protection and continuation of these critical education programs.

ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2025, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata