

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE  
COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

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Monday, May 23, 2022

**Request for Transparency of Albuquerque Public School  
Indian Education Senior Director Vacancy and Process**

On behalf of the Albuquerque Commission of American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, we respectfully come to you to formally request the status regarding of the APS Indian Education Senior Director vacancy. It has come to our attention the process for finding and filling this most critical position has paused and we are interested, as well as our constituents, Native residents of Albuquerque, in learning what the next steps will be going forward to fill this most critical position.

We recognize Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), including charter schools, serve over 7,141 Native children in its district who represent over 100+ federally recognized tribes, included tribes and Pueblos of New Mexico. This total of Native students served does not include Native students who are from State-only recognized tribes, tribes not recognized by the United States government, Native students with no tribe identified or declined to identify a tribe, and Native children who attend schools not funded through APS. Therefore, the total of Native students served in the APS education system we know is higher than what the data currently shows.

We want to acknowledge the traditional and Indigenous territory of the Tiwa speaking Tribes of Sandia and Isleta Pueblos, whose ancestral land APS currently operates on, which we call Albuquerque, is home to many Native families and children who receive APS services.

We want to acknowledge Albuquerque is not only home to people of the indigenous tribes of New Mexico that include the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Kewa, Ysleta del Sur, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, Zuni, and the Apache Tribes of Fort Sill, Jicarilla, Mescalero, and the Navajo Nation, but many Native tribes from across the country. These recognitions and acknowledgements are important as we establish understanding of the many tribes and nations whom the Native individuals and families identify with, are affiliated to, and who are enrolled members of and utilize APS Indian Education Department services.

We would like to take this time to express how important it is for this vital position to be filled as soon as possible. We believe the Indian Education department must have continuous leadership in order to be fully operational. We believe our Native children deserve to receive the utmost quality, culturally-relevant and responsive services from the department, the programs it leads, and staff it employs that also fulfills the United States federal trust with Native Tribes and Nations.

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We want to encourage and request the process regarding the Director position be made open and transparent, to share regular updates and status of the process, and every effort to include the Native community of Albuquerque in supporting the recruitment efforts of this role that will ultimately have influence on the very programs and services our Native children receive.

In closing, we want to thank you for receiving this letter. As the Commission, and on behalf of community members who have supported this document, we look forward to your response and to learn how we can be supportive of this effort going forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Rebecca Riley  
Commission on American Indian & Alaska Native Affairs