

HOPI SCHOOL SYSTEM STAKEHOLDER UPDATE JUNE 2023

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➤ **DENIAL OF HOPI SCHOOL SYSTEM P.L. 100-297 GRANT APPLICATION.** The Tribally Controlled Schools Act, P.L. 100-297 grant application, which was submitted to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) on January 31, 2023, was denied. BIE’s decision was based on the Hopi School System (HSS) not already having operational administrative systems in the schools and Central Administration Office, and because most Hopi schools are in sanctions and have other federal delinquencies and background check non-compliances. BIE included this chart on the schools’ status in the denial letter. The Hopi Board of Education (HBE) received the official denial letter on June 28, 2023, and an email copy on June 5, 2023.

HOPI SCHOOLS ONLY Report Status									
HOPI SCHOOLS	Fiscal Year End Date	Audit Reports Delinquent for FY(s)	Sanction Level	SY 21-22 Annual Report	SY 21-22 Facilities and O&M Reports	Latest Qtr Rcvd SF-425	Background Investigation		
First Mesa	6/30	Current	N/A	10/11/2022	Delinquent	12/31/2022	3/8/2023	Non-Compliant	
Hopi Day	6/30	2022	Level I	2/13/2023	2/13/2023	12/31/2022	11/15/2022	Compliant	EXPIRED UEI
Hopi Jr./Sr. High	6/30	2020-2021-2022	NER	3/21/2023	3/21/2023	12/31/2022	10/25/2022	Non-Compliant	
Hotevilla Bacavi	6/30	2022	Level I	9/19/2022	3/15/2023	6/30/2022	1/4/2023	Compliant	
Keams Canyon	6/30	2021-2022	Level II	3/31/2023	3/31/2023	12/31/2022	10/26/2022	Non-Compliant	
Moencopi	6/30	2022	Level I	2/21/2023	3/14/2023	6/30/2022	2/17/2023	Non-Compliant	
Second Mesa	6/30	2022	Level I	3/14/2023	2/6/2023	12/31/2022	10/25/2022	Non-Compliant	

➤ **NEXT STEPS.** After careful review of the BIE’s 5-page denial letter, HBE made the decision to appeal the denial. The HBE submitted its appeal to the BIE on June 29, 2023. The HBE decided to appeal the decision, in part, because the BIE’s decision is not in keeping with the purposes of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act to support Tribal decisions on the best interest of their students’ education and requires HBE to reach into the schools and make all of the HSS administrative systems operational now.

➤ **HOPI SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE WITH CURRENT STAFFING, POLICIES & ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS.** Until the BIE approves the Hopi School System P.L. 100-297 grant, the seven Tribally Controlled Schools will continue to operate under their existing P.L. 100-297 grants, which means:

- Current local school boards will continue to issue staff contracts for the 2023/2024 school year;
- HBE hopes that the schools retain their dedicated and qualified staff and that the schools continue recruiting for the upcoming school year to fill any vacant positions; and
- Schools will continue to operate under their existing policies, procedures and administrative systems.

➤ **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE MODULARS.** BIE has awarded the HSS three new modular buildings for the Central Administration Office. On June 21, 2023, the BIE confirmed that since the HSS grant was denied, the modulars will be placed under the Hopi Junior Senior High School (HJSHS), and BIE will provide additional Operations & Maintenance funds to the HJSHS to upkeep these modulars. Therefore, the modulars are still scheduled for delivery in July/August 2023.

➤ **BIE WITHHOLDS FUNDING FOR NEW SOFTWARE, COMPUTERS & FURNITURE FOR THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.** On June 21, 2023, BIE informed HBE that BIE will not provide any of the previously approved funding for the administrative software, computers and furniture for the Central Administration Office until the Hopi School System P.L. 100-297 grant is approved.

➤ **HBE CANDIDATES’ BACKGROUND CHECKS.** Three candidates have applied to offer their expertise and leadership on the HBE. These candidates were provided to the Hopi Tribe’s Human Resources Office, but the Office has not yet completed the background checks. Once they are completed, the Transition Team will determine whether to nominate them to the Hopi Tribal Council for appointment on the HBE.

If you have any questions, please contact HBE through the HSS website above. Askwali and Kwakwa!