



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Theodore Roosevelt School's Request to the Department of the Interior for Program Waivers Due To COVID-19 Pandemic)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power, "To represent the tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the tribe"; and
- WHEREAS,** Theodore Roosevelt School ("TRS" or the "School") is funded by the federal government as a tribally-controlled school of the Tribe that serves the qualifying school-aged children of the Tribe and of other Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** The federal grant funding conditions require that TRS meet minimum standards for the provision of various program activities, including program activities concerning residential life activities, field trips, instructional hours, and after-school athletics and other extra-curricular activities, among other things; and
- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic has made it necessary for TRS to significantly reduce its provision of program activities until such activities can be conducted safely without increasing the risk of pandemic infection; and
- WHEREAS,** TRS has been advised by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Education, that due to the extraordinary circumstances brought by COVID-19, the School may submit a request for a waiver of standards to permit continued grant funding, in the event that programs are provided less often or in fewer numbers than the minimum qualifying standards during this academic year; and
- WHEREAS,** The TRS School Board has met and given approval for a request for a waiver of the regulatory standards for various grant programs and activities, and the Board requests similar approval from the governing Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** If approved, the waivers would allow TRS to receive and use the funding in compliance with regulatory standards for the designated programs at a later date when it is safe to do so, as determined by the Tribe and public health officials; and
- WHEREAS,** In the meantime, the School will continue its focus on the students' core educational needs while it begins the steps of the scheduled reopening of additional school activities in compliance with Tribal regulation, and as outlined in the materials provided for by the School for Council review; and

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WHEREAS, The Tribal Council has reviewed the waiver application and finds that the request would serve the educational needs and enhance the opportunities of the TRS students, while contributing to the safety of the students, staff and community.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Theodore Roosevelt School to request of the Department of the Interior a waiver of certain program regulatory standards to permit continued program and grant funding during the period of interruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as detailed in the TRS waiver request and application reviewed this date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on Sept. 15, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman

09-15-2020
Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

9-15-2020
Date