

# Working With the Indian Education Committee

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# Agenda

- Brief overview of Johnson-O'Malley Act – 25 CFR, Section 273
- History of Native American Parent Involvement and Indian Education
- Roles and Responsibilities of IEC
- Recommendations to Superintendents and Board Members
- Discussion
- Questions & Answers

# Johnson-O'Malley Act

- 25 Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR), Part 273
- Federally funded program – BIA – Navajo Nation – LEA (subcontract)
- Passed by Congress in April 16, 1934

Dewey W. Johnson and  
Thomas O'Malley, US  
Congressmen



# Native American Parents – Brief History of Indian Education

- BIA and boarding schools – punished parents who did not send their children to boarding schools
- Poor conditions and psychologically and culturally devastating experiences of Native American children
- Former policies and practices has resulted in barriers between schools and parents
- Parents were, historically, excluded from their children's education
- Today, parents are expected to be involved
- School educational/cultural values vs Native American values

# Roles and Responsibilities of the Indian Education Committee (25 CFR, Section 273)

- 273.15 – Establishment of IEC – elected by parents of eligible Native American students
- 273.16 – Powers and duties of IEC - Vested with the authority to participate fully in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of all programs (273.4 – Policy of maximum Indian participation)
- 273.17 – Programs approved by IEC – All programs shall be developed and approved in full compliance with the powers and duties of the IEC

# Recommendations

- Become familiar with 25 CFR Section 273 – Johnson-O'Malley Act
- Learn and understand the history of Indian Education
- Develop and maintain a healthy working relationship with the IEC
  - Hold informal meetings with the IEC officers/IEC members and Board members/Superintendent (district priorities, IEC priorities, expectations, parent involvement, common goals, etc.)
  - Attend IEC meetings and JOM sponsored activities
  - Ensure that your program manager is knowledgeable in school/district policies, problem-solving, program implementation, and strategic planning. Provide proper training and support to your JOM personnel.

# Recommendation - continue

- Use the IEC as an asset to your school district. Seek the strengths that parents have to offer.
- Provide leadership professional development for parents and invite your IEC members.
- Communicate with your IEC on a regular basis.
- Include the JOM/IEC accomplishments in district newsletters, website, announcement, etc.
- Agree to disagree – Create a relationship of mutual respect and an environment where individuals can take risks safely.

# Questions & Answers

Thank you!

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