

**Ruidoso Municipal School District
Indian Education Needs Assessment
October 15, 2020**

Based on consultation with our Native American Liaisons, Ruidoso Municipal School District has identified the following needs for our Native American students.

Immediate Needs:

- Determine ongoing needs for technology equipment, primarily hotspots, to support online learning. Provide equipment where necessary.
- Provide training and support for online learning. This could be provided through zoom meetings, written instructions for accessing online learning for various grade levels and platforms, recorded video demonstrations of online platforms, and/or contact information for staff at each school who could provide one-on-one tech support when needed.
- Explore options to assist with issues like day care and transportation. Many parents have to work and need to have a safe place for their students to be for online days. Many parents are also transporting their students from Mescalero, rather than letting them ride the bus, because they want to protect their students from potential exposure to COVID-19.

Long-Term Needs:

- Form a parent committee, to include one parent representative from each school. In addition to advising schools regarding Native American students' academic and cultural needs, the committee members would also attend Tribal Council meetings, with the Superintendent and the Liaisons, to provide input from a parent's standpoint.
- Create an addendum to the traditional culture booklet that is already distributed to staff to provide staff with additional information to assist with cultural understanding. For example, a child may refer to their birth mother's sister as Mother, not Aunt.
- Expand the Apache culture and language classes that are already taking place at Sierra Vista Primary and White Mountain Elementary to Ruidoso Middle School and Ruidoso High School, through the Indian Clubs. Assist with compensation to the teacher/facilitator.