



## **Tribal Education Programs Face Federal Layoffs**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an effort to motivate Senate Democrats to support the House’s continuing resolution, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has instructed agencies to engage in reductions-in-force (RIF) or permanent layoffs.

When NNWO first learned of these plans in September, we immediately contacted federal agency leaders to request that staff serving Indian Country be exempt from any RIF decisions. Unfortunately, we learned from our partners at the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) that on October 10, 2025, termination notices were sent to staff at the Department of Education Office of Indian Education, Impact Aid Office, and the administrators for Alaska Native Education and Native Hawaiian Education.

In response, NIEA sent a letter to Secretary McMahon and OMB Director Vought requesting the RIFs to be rescinded. The Navajo Nation signed onto the letter, which can be accessed [here](#).

At home, NNWO is in close collaboration with the Office of President & Vice President, the Navajo Nation Council’s Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Department of Diné Education in our response to this matter. In D.C., NNWO is working with the NIEA and other organizations to lead the effort to get the RIFs rescinded and to continue pushing for exemptions for Indian Country from any future RIFs.

At this time, the RIFs are under a temporary restraining order (TRO) through a decision of a district court in California. It is expected, however, that the higher courts will lift the TRO and allow the terminations to occur.

NNWO will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for the interests of the Navajo Nation.