

# *The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes*

*Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe*  
*President*

*Tasha R. Mousseau*  
*Vice President*

*Vanessa Vance*  
*Treasurer*

*Starr Chavez*  
*Secretary*



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*John Bowman III*  
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*Matt Roberson*  
*Committee Member*

*Claudia Spybuck*  
*Committee Member*

**WT-25-73**

## **RESOLUTION**

*Advancing Educational Outcomes for Native Children and Upholding the Federal Trust  
Responsibility to Protect Tribal Education Programs*

- WHEREAS,** the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, and Tawakoni) (the "Tribe") possesses substantial inherent sovereign powers and has exercised those powers since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has a duly established Tribal Government recognized by the Secretary of the Interior; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V of the Wichita Governing Resolution authorizes and empowers the Wichita Executive Committee of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes to act in all matters of business on behalf of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has a clear trust and treaty responsibility to Tribal Nations for the education of Indian children, as established through the U.S. Constitution and treaties, and reaffirmed in statutes, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Education administer critical programs supporting Native students, rooted in treaties, federal laws, and case precedents, including the Snyder Act of 1921, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988, the Johnson O'Malley Act of 1935, P.L. 81-874 (1950), Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the Indian Education Act of 1972; and
- WHEREAS,** the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes shares many priorities with the current Administration in ensuring that federal education funds are used effectively, that education is directed by local communities and parents, that unnecessary federal regulations are minimized, that federal funding mechanisms are streamlined, and that Tribal economic engines are strengthened; and
- WHEREAS,** the potential restructuring or dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education poses significant threats to the stability and accessibility of these vital resources guaranteed through trust and treaty obligations; and the United States' trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Country are mandatory obligations, not discretionary budget items, and must not be subject to defunding or elimination; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribally Controlled Schools Act declares that "a national goal of the United States is to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable tribes and local communities to obtain the quantity and quality of educational services that will permit Indian children to compete and excel in areas of their choice; and to achieve the measure of self-determination essential to their social and economic well-being;" and

**WHEREAS,** the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes requests that the Administration issue exemptions to any federal policies that would undermine the federal government's trust responsibility in Indian Country, including but not limited to Indian education programs; and

**WHEREAS,** past initiatives, such as the Great American Outdoors Act and the Executive Order on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, have demonstrated the Administration's commitment to Tribal Nations, and the [Name of Tribe] is committed to continuing this partnership to address the challenges facing Indian education; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes urges the President and Congress to uphold the federal trust responsibility by ensuring the continuation of all Tribal-specific education programs, including those with Tribal set-asides; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that any changes to the administration of federal education programs must include meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and ensure that funding mechanisms remain intact for the benefit of Native students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes directs the appropriate tribal officials to engage with federal agencies and legislative bodies to advocate for the protection and continuation of these critical education programs.

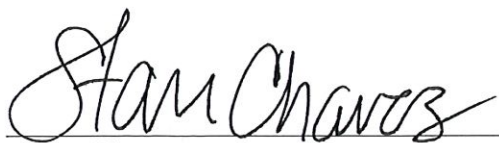
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Executive Committee hereby authorizes President Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe or Vice President Tasha R. Mousseau in her absence, to sign this resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Wichita Executive Committee of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma on **February 6, 2025**, in Anadarko, Oklahoma, by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, a quorum being present.

Attest:

Approved:



Starr Chavez  
Secretary



Tasha R. Mousseau  
Vice President