

NAVAJO HEAD START NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2026

Message from the Assistant Superintendent

Gratitude Message

Thank you for the work that was accomplished in the first two quarters of the school year. I wish you all continued success.

Dayforce Updates

Please know that the transition to Dayforce continues to be a process for all. We are working with Department of Personnel Management (DPM) to establish Manager access for positions that are identified as "Supervisors". Please be patient with our teams as we transition to this new phase in operations.

Closing Remarks

I look forward to our continued work together. Be well.

Dr. Billy



Reminders

Navajo Head Start closure notice

Monday, January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all Navajo Head Start Centers will be closed.



NHS contact information

website: navajohs.com
Phone: (928) 357 - 6730

SCHOOL READINESS

Summary

In the first quarter NHS classrooms have studied various topics for Dine language and culture. At the beginning of the school year, students got to explore their classrooms and becoming familiar with their classroom routines to boost their cognitive development; and building language and social-emotional skills with their peers of know their names, how to write their names, and being able to identify feelings. In addition to topics, the students studied on cultural topics of food groups, trees, clothing, and landscape to enhance their knowledge and language skills to use Dine bizaad in identifying simple terms from their daily experiences in and out of classroom.

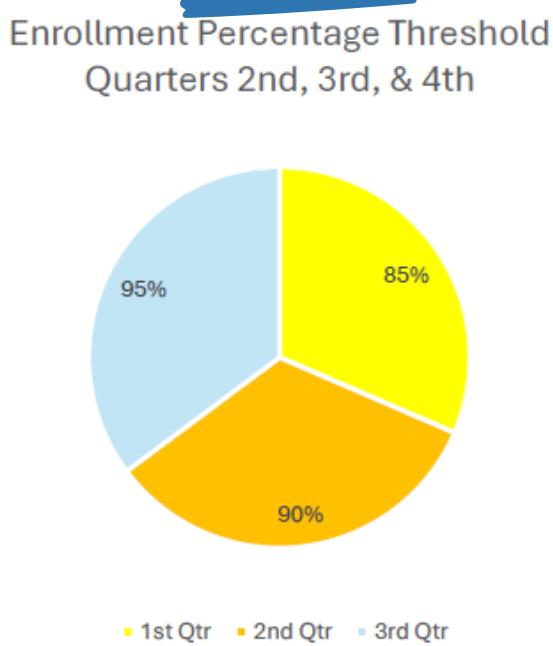
At the All Staff PDD, center staff got introduced to Dine cultural topic of the Navajo story of Spider Woman and Navajo string games. NHS DLCS presented to the staff in Navajo where the staff got to learn about the string games. Following the presentation, the staff were given individual strings to design figure out of the strings and some played games. Through the Navajo string game, staff found enjoyment in the doing Navajo string games where it also included laughter, communication skills to share stories from their upbringing, and using their autonomy in knowing how to design figures with the string. It was a mental wellness exercise for the staff to give their minds a brain break while connecting back with our Dine culture.



ERSEA AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

ERSEA Report

Greetings to the New Year. This months goals for support at the center level is ensuring all sites who were served an under-enrollment notification for second quarter are targeted on the January Recruitment Calendar. The ERSEA liaisons each had sites within their districts identified as under-enrolled, meaning those centers did not meet the 85% threshold for enrollment. Every quarter has a percentage that needs to be meet at each respected district. The following quarter enrollment thresholds percentages are listed as follows:



ERSEA Contact Card Information for Enrollment Purposes:

Navajo Head Start - District Information
Central Administration (928) 357-6434

F. Lewis, ERSEA Specialist
email: falencialewis@nndode.org

ERSEA/FE Liaison Contact Information
District 1: Shiprock

(505) 368-1200
(928) 551-4407
T. Gordon

email: timaragordon@nndode.org

District 2: Crownpoint

(928) 357-6437
(928) 206-3431
V. Woods-Henry

email: vanessawoodshenry@nndode.org

District 3: Window Rock

(928) 357-6441
(928) 206-3067
C.Chester

email: carolchester@nndode.org

District 4: Chinle

(928) 206-2877
J. Lowe
email: jacquelinelowe@nndode.org
(928) 206-3259
M. Davis

email: mirandadavis@nndode.org

District 5: Tuba City

(505) 567-0327
L. Luani
email: lesandraluani@nndode.org
G. Begay
email: genevievebegay@nndode.org

ENROLLMENT JANUARY

RECRUITMENT CALENDAR

These enrollment locations on the calendar are reflecting those sites who were identified as Under-Enrolled for the end of Qtr. 2

January 2026 ERSEA Recruitment

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2 Chinle Many Farms	3
4	5 Tsayatoh	6 Cornfields Church Rock	7 Oljato Shiprock	8 Nahata Dzil	9	10
11 Navajo Mountain	12 Sawmill Crownpoint	13 Thoreau Kayenta	14 Whippoorwill Red Mesa	15 Ganado	16	17
18 MLK Day HOLIDAY	19 Cameron	20 Torreon	21 Shonto Inscription House	22 Upper Fruitland Newcomb	23 Tohatchi/Twin Lakes	24
25	26 St. Michaels	27 Crystal	28 Nageezi	29	30	31

MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES

Update from the MHD Team

The MHD Team continues to prioritize individualization, accommodation, modifications, and services for students with IFSPs and IEPs during the second half of the school year. Our liaisons are collaborating with center staff to review IFSP and IEP documents and lesson plans, ensuring effective implementation. Professional development sessions are planned to reinforce these practices.

The renewed focus aims to improve services for students with IFSPs and IEPs, promoting educational equity by guaranteeing that children with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as their peers. Under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, students should be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE) whenever possible, fostering inclusion alongside typically developing children.

Currently, NHS is at 6.1% of actual enrollment for children eligible for services under *IDEA*. Our goal is to increase this percentage and strive forward reaching 10% by year's end.

Upcoming Child Find Dates and Phone Numbers

- Jan. 16: Ganado Unified School District (928) 755-1028/1200
- Jan. 21: Chinle Unified School District (928) 674-9732/9729
- Jan. 23: Tuba City Unified School District (928) 283-1030
- Jan. 26: Bloomfield School District (505) 634-3846
- Jan. 26: Pinon Unified School District (928) 725-2225/2131
- Jan. 29: Cedar Unified School District (928) 738-2335 ext. 106
- Feb. 6: Kayenta Unified School District (928) 679-2400/2408
- Gallup McKinley County Schools call to make an appointment (505) 721-1800
- Red Mesa Unified School District call for more information (928) 656-4192
- San Juan School District call for more information (435) 678-1273/1222



MHD Contact Info

Lena Yellowhair, *MHD Specialist*

- lenayellowhair@nndode.org
- Desk phone: (928) 357-6432
- Program Cell (928) 206-3346 (text only)

Latoyah Todecheene, *MHD Liaison*

- latoyahtodecheene@nndode.org
- Program Cell (928) 551-3571

Trisa Begay, *MHD Liaison*

- trisabegay@nndode.org



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

A message from the
Director of Administrative
Services

As we move into the second semester of the school year, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your continued dedication and hard work. I hope you were able to enjoy quality time with your families over the break. Thank you all for your continued commitment and collaboration.

-Janell Begay



Facilities

On the Facilities side, maintenance staff have been working diligently to remove clutter from housing units while continuing regular center maintenance. Please ensure that heaters are turned on where needed and that faucets are set to drip during freezing temperatures to prevent frozen pipes.

Human Resources

This month, we have been actively working on the transition to **ERP**, our new system for timesheets. We continue to collaborate closely with DPM to resolve minor issues, and we kindly ask for your patience during this transition period.

Fleet

Additionally, we are still collecting **tribal vehicle registration information**. If you have not yet submitted your registration, please do so as soon as possible. This information is necessary for the release of vehicle insurance, as vehicles are currently not insured until registrations are complete.

Health & Nutrition

Please be reminded that **outside food should not be displayed or shared around students during operational hours**, as we must remain compliant with **CACFP reimbursement requirements**. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.



LOCAL PARENT COMMITTEE AND NHS PARENT POLICY COUNCIL

Established LPC's

- Newcomb
- Crownpoint 1
- Nageezi
- Thoreau
- Sawmill
- Oljato
- Rock Point
- Crownpoint 2
- Pinedale
- Tohatchi
- Tsaile
- Tsaile EHS

This information is based on the centers who have submitted their member roster for the SY 2025 - 2026

Policy Council Recruitment

Goal

The Policy Council and Local Parent Committees to communicate effectively, understand governance activities and support management efforts to enhance accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the best interest of the program.

Definitions

Parent Representative: A parent of a currently enrolled child.

Community Representative: A community member familiar with resources and services or a former NHS parent.

Open Positions by District

- District 1: 1 Parent Representative
- District 2: 1 Parent Representative and 1 Community Representative
- District 3: 1 Parent Representative
- District 4: 1 Parent Representative and 1 Community Representative
- District 5: 1 Parent Representative and 1 Community Representative

Upcoming NHS Parent Policy Council Meeting

January 15, 2026 @ 1:00 P.M.

Contact Info

Stephanie Benally, HS RPC

Email: stephaniebenally@nndode.org

Phone: (928) 357 - 6450

***Please encourage your Local Parent Committee (LPC) families to nominate a representative from your district. ***