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Introduction When the United States government first began instating NativeAmerican control plans, specific educational programs were inaugurated onNative American reservations. Past educational programs provided by the U. Sgovernment, have laid the foundation for today’s poor learning opportunities.

Research has shown that Native American students have the lowest high-schoolgraduation rate out of any other ethnic group. 1 The high levels of povertyexperienced by Native Americans on reservations tend to interfere witheducational success. The physical and social effects of living in poverty havean inimical effect on a student’s cognitive learning. 2 Due to the shortcoming ofeducation funding by the federal government Native American students are notprovided with the proper educational tools.

The Johnson O’Malley programcreated in 1934 with the mission to finance the basic educational needs of NativeAmerican students, disperse money based on the number of tribal members inpublic schools. 3Congress has failed to take the necessary steps in surveying the populationsince 1994 despite the number of students growing 4% each year. 4 With that being said, theamount of money funded in 1944 must cover far more students than before. Theconcern of educational funding must be brought to attention due to the numberof poorly educated students. Native American students are put at a far moredisadvantage when it comes to real world situations and embarking on jobs. Knowledge is power and has a immense effect on a person’s future in the world. With education playing such a powerful role, steps should be taken in order tosupplement education programs on Native American reservations.

Government              Education opportunities were included in treaties signed by NativeAmericans and the United States from the very beginning. However, theU. S government has defectively attempted to provide federal funding foreducation on Native American reservations. In 1926, a investigation of Indianaffairs by the Committee of One Hundred caused the Meriam Report to bepublished. 5  The Meriam Reportpublished in 1928 documented the functional problems of residential schools aswell as poverty and health. 6 The report prompted for achange in curriculums, facilities, and teachers.

Complications in educationbegan to be brought to attention until later setbacks began to occur. Duringthe presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress passed the Indian RecognitionAct of 1934. 7This act aimed to increase the amount of Native American self-government andcontrol.

8 With Native Americansbeing granted this independence the United State government began to be put ata disconnect with Native Americans. The United States has failed to fund themwith the sufficient amount of money for education systems. As stated in theintroduction, the amount of money given in 1944 provided by the JohnsonO’Malley program does not suffice for the number of students being educatedtoday on reservations. Thus, forcing tribal schools to stretch money which inreturn causes for lack of textbooks, ill educated teacher, and othereducational tools.   Native American Students    Underfunding foreducation on Native American reservations has taken a toll on young students.

Today studies show that Native American students have the worst achievementscores and the lowest graduation rate than any other ethnic group. For example, Native American students’ ACT scores are more than 100 points lower than theaverage students. 9While other ethnic groups scores tend to linger around the same point, NativeAmerican students’ scores have declined. 10 In the 2014 school year, 64% of Native American students graduated compared to the national average of80%.

11 Many Native Americanstudents on reservations tend to dropout due to their educational needs notbeing met while in school. The circumstances of Native American students have anegative effect on them causing students to lose motivation when it comes toschool. With reservations being surrounded by poverty, young kids don’t have ahealthy outlet consume them. The proper educational tools are not supplied tostudents which in return causes them to fall behind and not learn the proper material. With students dropping out and being undereducated it makes it harder for themto get jobs in order to support themselves. The cycle of poverty then continueson reservations. The Proposal In order for Native American students to be properly educated, theUnited States government must take steps to improve funding. The proper amountof money should go to Native American schools based on the number of studentsenrolled on reservations.

Increased funding will go to toward experiencedteachers, educational tools, and finer facilities. With increase fundingstudents will have a much better education and have the opportunity tochallenge themselves. Motivational programs such as mentoring should beemplaced in order to encourage students to be successful in school. Mentoringprograms should be offered in order to promote young students to be productiveand responsible both in and out of the classroom. These programs will giveyouth positive outlooks which may decrease dropout rates on reservations. Programsas such may inspire kids to help in their community to better theirreservations.  Exceptions     When consideringgovernment funding you must take in account the demurring suggestions. Whenpresenting the solution, the first thing that comes to mind is where will thegovernment find the money to fund Native American studies.

The U. S governmentis already in debt more than $20. 1 trillion and may not be able to give thatmoney out. 12Funding for Native American education was included from the beginning whenNative Americans were welcomed on U. S soil. The United States simply failed tohold up their end of the bargain. It may also be suggested that being thattribes are self-governed they should fund themselves, but it all goes back tothe treaties.

The U. S agreed to these conditions from the beginning, so theyhave to start upholding their word.  Conclusion The underfunding of Native American students should be brought toattention immediately and solved. Native American students are ill educated andforgotten which is completely unacceptable. They are being left behind while weall turn a blind eye to their circumstances. It will, however, take the money, involvement, and effort of the United States government to change theircircumstances. More money towards qualified teachers, educational tools, andbetter facilities will encourage better performance from students and challengethem. Mentoring programs also should be offered to motivate students and leadthem in the right direction.

With the positive guidance from someone studentswill better themselves. If the solution is implemented, we will surely see apositive change in performance levels academically as well as their communityfrom Native American youth.                      Bibliography Klein, Rebecca.” The Education System Is Failing Native American Students. Here’sProof.” The Huffington Post.

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