

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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Bureau of Indian Affairs

INDIAN EDUCATION

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, through its education program, aims to prepare Indian people to realize the basic goals of the Bureau: (1) maximum Indian economic self-sufficiency; (2) full participation of Indians in American life; and (3) equal citizenship privileges and responsibilities for Indian people. To accomplish this, the Bureau has the following education goals: (1) educational opportunity for every Indian person as far as his ability and interest will take him; (2) a level of educational attainment for Indian people at least equal to that for the general population; and (3) a kind of education and training which will be of maximum use to Indian people in attaining the basic goals.

At this time Indians are not as well educated as the general population and have unique educational needs. Therefore, the educational program conducted by the Bureau is, in a real sense, "special" education.

2. Operation

(a) In fiscal year 1965 the Bureau operated directly 258 schools and 19 dormitories housing public school students, with a combined enrollment of more than 52,000 students. This school system was administered through 10 area offices and more than 70 agencies and field offices, under Washington office direction.