



## DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 670 · Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
PHONE (928) 871 – 7475 · FAX (928) 871 – 7474



**Dr. Buu Nygren**  
**President**

**Richelle Montoya**  
**Vice President**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DODE CONGRATULATES CHINLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEING NAMED ONE OF SIX ARIZONA NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Department of Diné Education is excited and honored to announce that one of our tribal schools received the coveted National Blue Ribbon school award this November.

This achievement is given to schools that are in the top 15% in their state, per the U.S. Department of Education. These schools have students with outstanding academic achievement and make significant leaps in closing the achievement gaps between students.

Six Arizona schools were selected this year, and we want to highlight Chinle Elementary School for their outstanding achievement. The six schools were honored in a ceremony by the Arizona Department of Education on November 14.

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Superintendent Quincy Natay spoke of how proud he was of his district.

“The award demonstrates that it doesn’t matter that we’re from a reservation and Native. Our kids can and will excel. It speaks to what our kids are capable of doing,” said Superintendent Natay.

The other five Arizona Blue Ribbon schools were the Academy of Math and Science in Peoria, Empire High School in Tucson, the Maricopa Institute of Technology, St. John Bosco Catholic School, and Tempe Elementary’s Ward Traditional Academy.

State Superintendent Tom Horne said he will continue to recognize achieving schools through the Blue Ribbon program even after the U.S. Department of Education told states it would not recognize future classes.

This comes after the federal agency said it would discontinue the recognition as part of the Trump Administration’s plan to return education to the states but said that states can continue to recognize students on their own going forward.

But with or without federal recognition, the award reflects strongly on the students at each of these schools that were celebrated.

“This award goes a long ways and educating parents about what we’re doing in our schools. I can’t say enough about how proud I am of what we’re able to do,” Superintendent Natay said.

***For the latest news, visit the Navajo Department of Diné Education website at <http://www.navajonationdode.org>. DODE is also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NavajoNationDODE>.***

**Cody M. Begaye**  
**Senior Public Information Officer**  
**Department of Diné Education Administration**  
**[codybegaye@nndode.org](mailto:codybegaye@nndode.org)**

