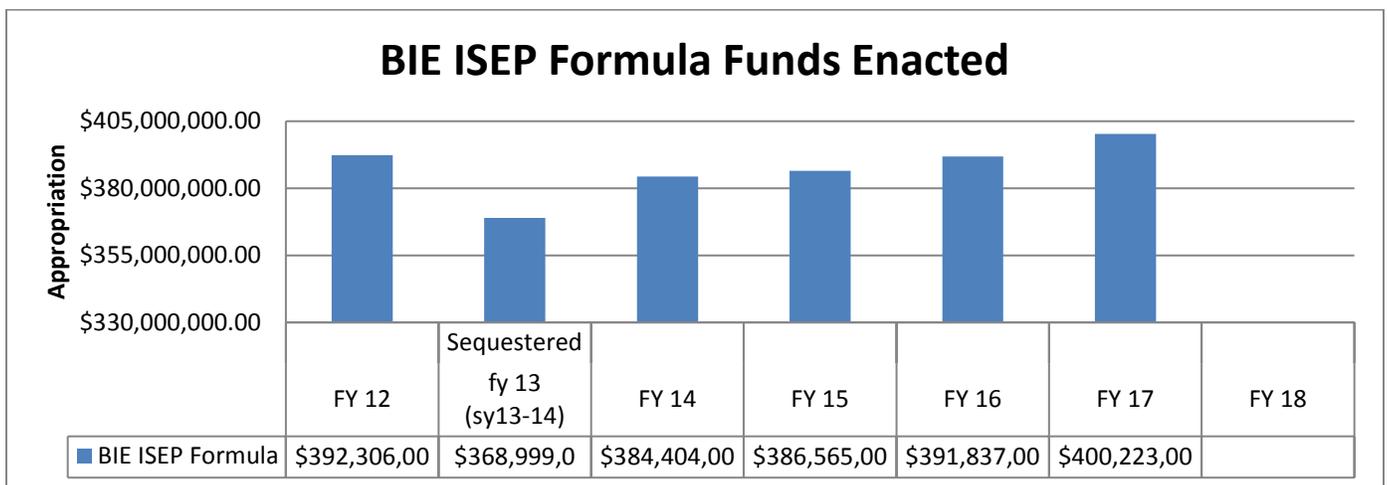


FY 18 Appropriations Testimony

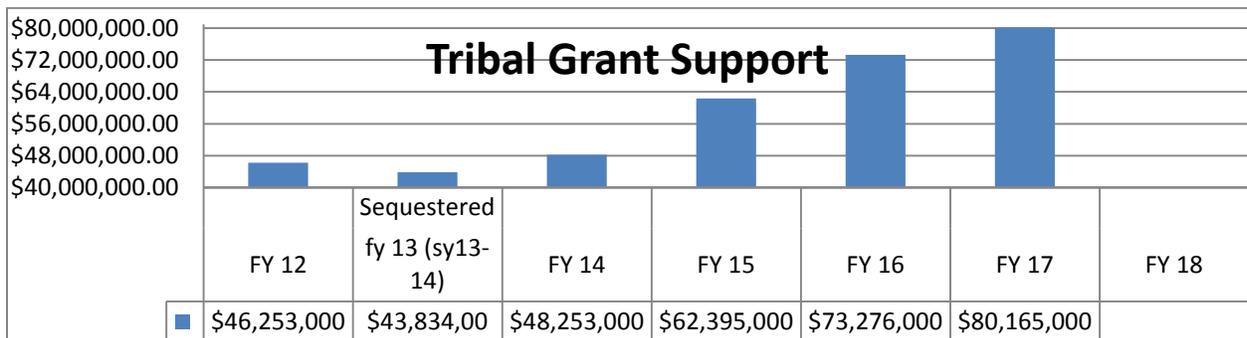
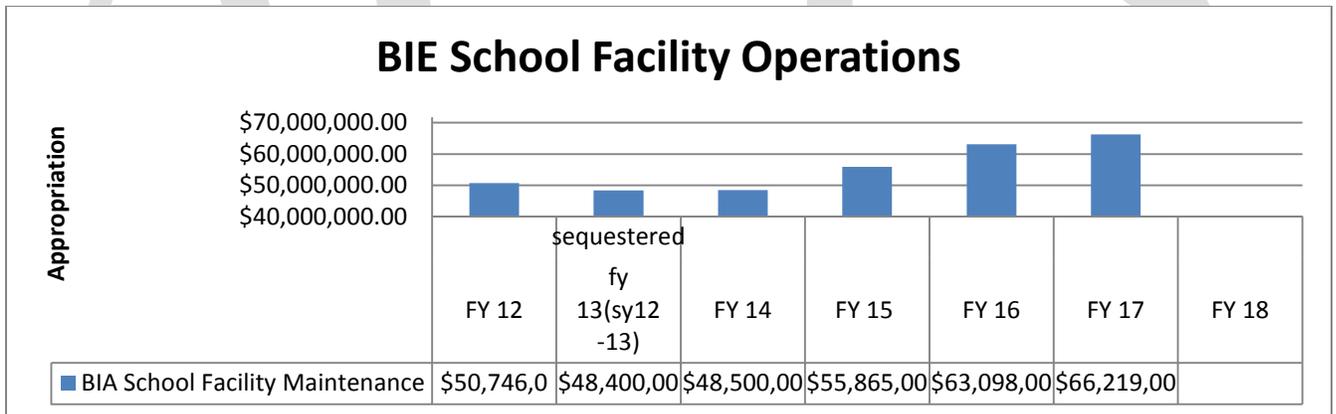
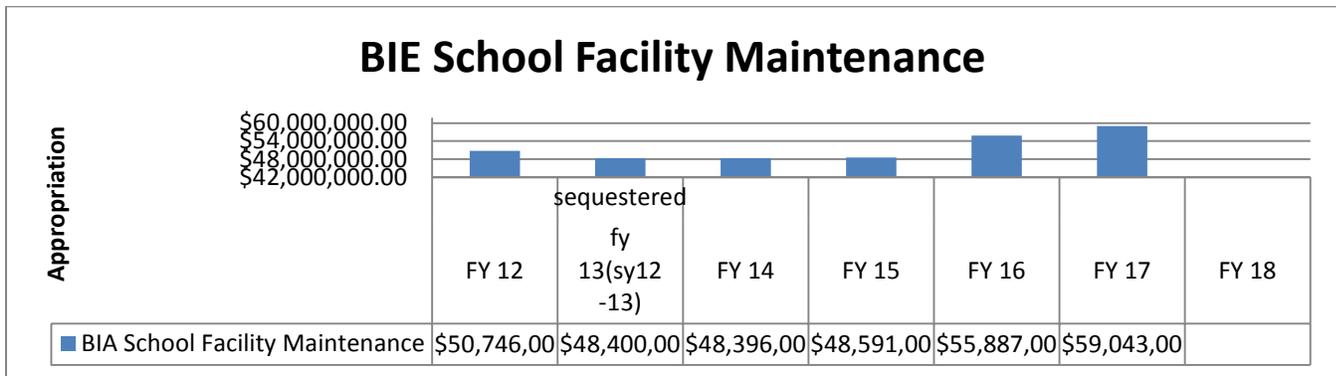
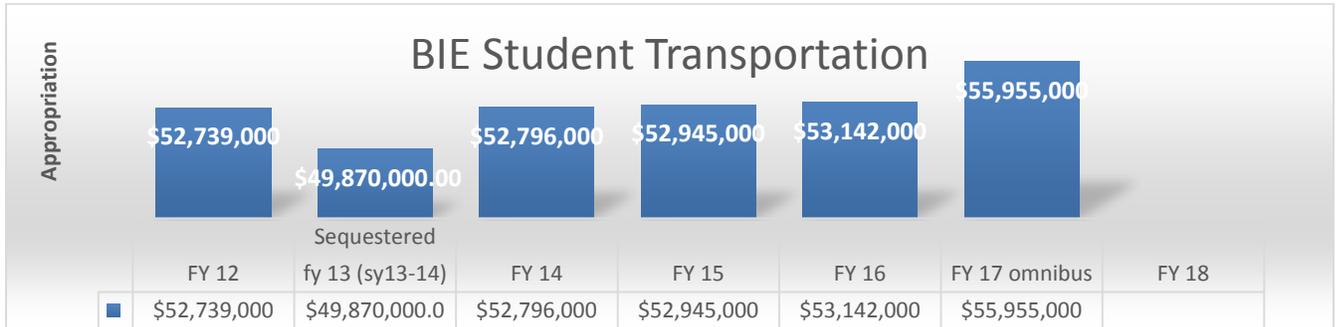
My name is Mr. Thomas Miller, member of the Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians located in what is now the state of Michigan; I am President of the Association of Community Tribal Schools Inc. (ACTS Inc.). WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR previous appropriations.

The tribal school movement started in 1966 with Rough Rock Demonstration School in Arizona. There are now over 30,000 students in 130 tribal elementary and secondary schools. These schools of choice are in the states of **Maine, Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Montana, California, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.** These schools are either operated directly by a tribal governing body or a tribal organization authorized by the tribal governing body. ACTS Inc. represents a significant number of students in the 130 tribally controlled elementary and secondary schools. ACTS’s mission is to “assist community tribal schools toward their mission of ensuring that when students complete their schools they are prepared for lifelong learning and that these students will strengthen and perpetuate traditional tribal societies.”

These charts illustrate the enacted amounts over the last several years.



FY 18 Appropriations Testimony



FY 18 Appropriations Testimony

Modest Requested Action for FY 18 Interior Appropriations

1. Continue to annually increase these accounts by a minimal modest 2+/-%:
(Actual need for these 5 Program Elements is approximately \$ 60,000,000)

BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs – ISEP	\$ 8,000,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Facility Operations	\$ 1,300,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Facility Maintenance	\$ 1,200,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Student Transportation	\$ 1,100,000
BIE – Tribal Grant Support Cost	<u>\$ 1,400,000</u>
	\$ 13,000,000

[There is a need to forward fund Facilities Operations and Maintenance = \$ 125,000,000]

2. Increase Early Child and Family Development (allow for expansion) \$ 3,000,000
3. Construction – Education Construction. The BIA reports a nearly \$ 75,000,000 annual facility deterioration rate, \$ 388 million in deferred maintenance and \$ 4.4 billion in school replacement.

	Annual Need
Replacement School Construction	\$ 100,000,000
Replacement Facility Construction	\$ 50,000,000
Employee Housing Repair and Replacement	\$ 15,000,000
Facility Improvement and Repair	\$ 100,000,000

Requested report language: ACTS respectfully asked the Committee to include Report language that directs the Secretary to seek information and prepare a report that identifies the number of tribes and/or tribal organizations interested in starting schools of choice through the use of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988.

The Committee directs the Secretary to:

“Prepare a report identifying the number of tribes and tribal organizations that currently operate schools of choice using the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 who desire to expand grades and/programs. The reports shall include name of tribe, state they are located, and estimated number of potential students.”

In addition ACTS would ask the Committee to request the Secretary to submit a feasibility study that would move all Bureau of Indian Education Elementary and Secondary, Education Construction and other Bureau of Indian Affairs related functions for schools authorized under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 to an independent federal agency.

These reports are to be submitted to the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate plus the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs. These reports will be submitted 150 days after passage of this appropriations bill.