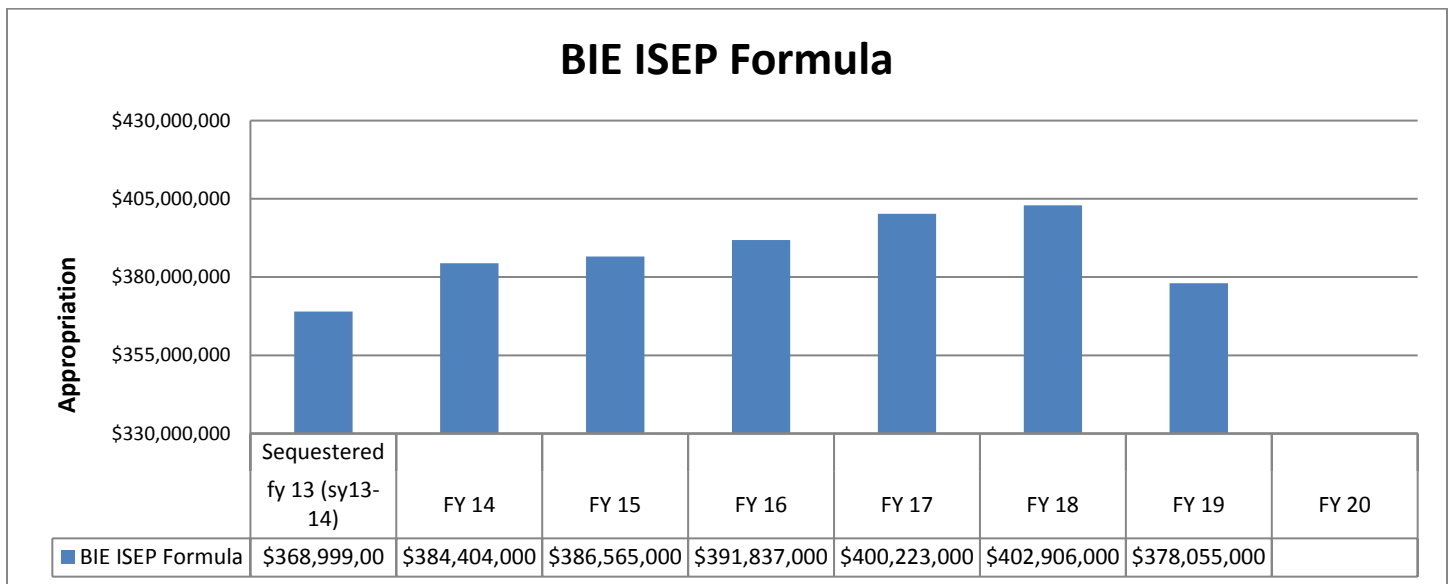


Association of Community Tribal Schools Inc. FY 20 Interior Appropriations Testimony

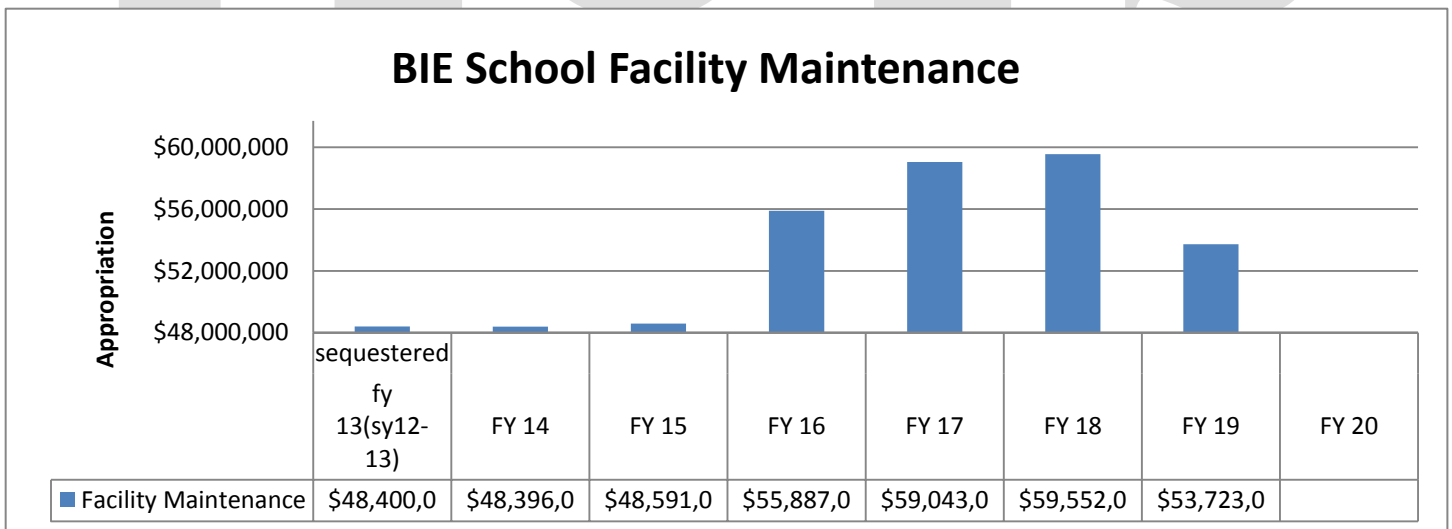
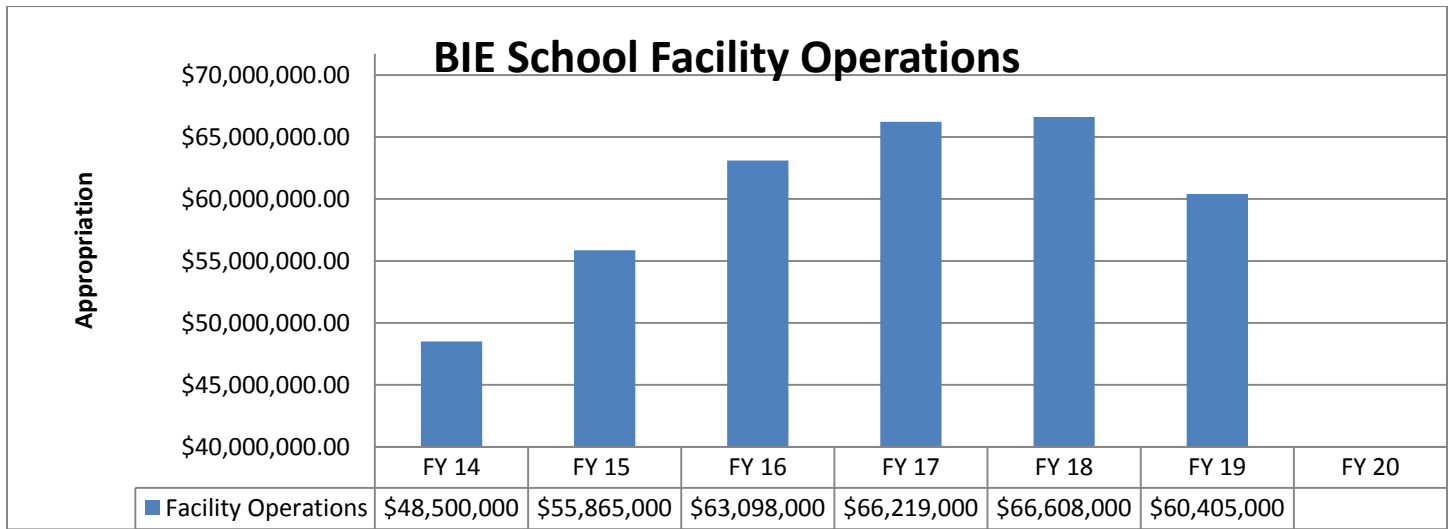
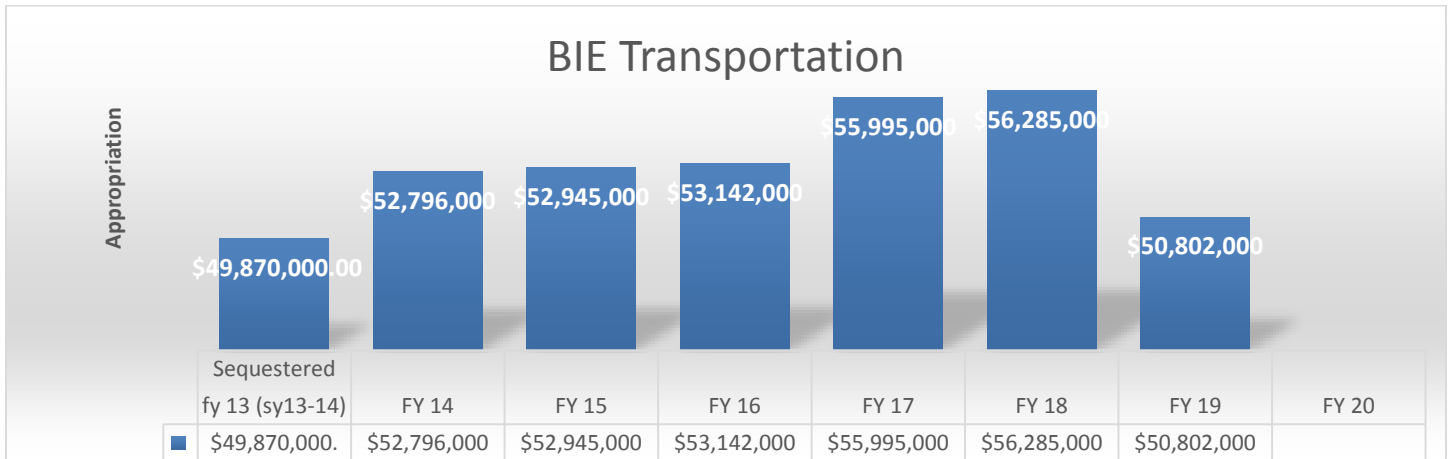
My name is Jennifer McLeod, tribal council member of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Michigan and a board member of Association of Community Tribal Schools Inc. (ACTS Inc.). WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR FIGHT FOR THE FY 19 Interior Appropriations.

The tribal school movement started in 1966 with Rough Rock Demonstration School in Arizona. Currently there are over **30,000 students in 130 tribal elementary and secondary schools**. The schools are in the states of **Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, Maine, Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Montana, California, Utah, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico**. ACTS represents a significant number of the 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.”

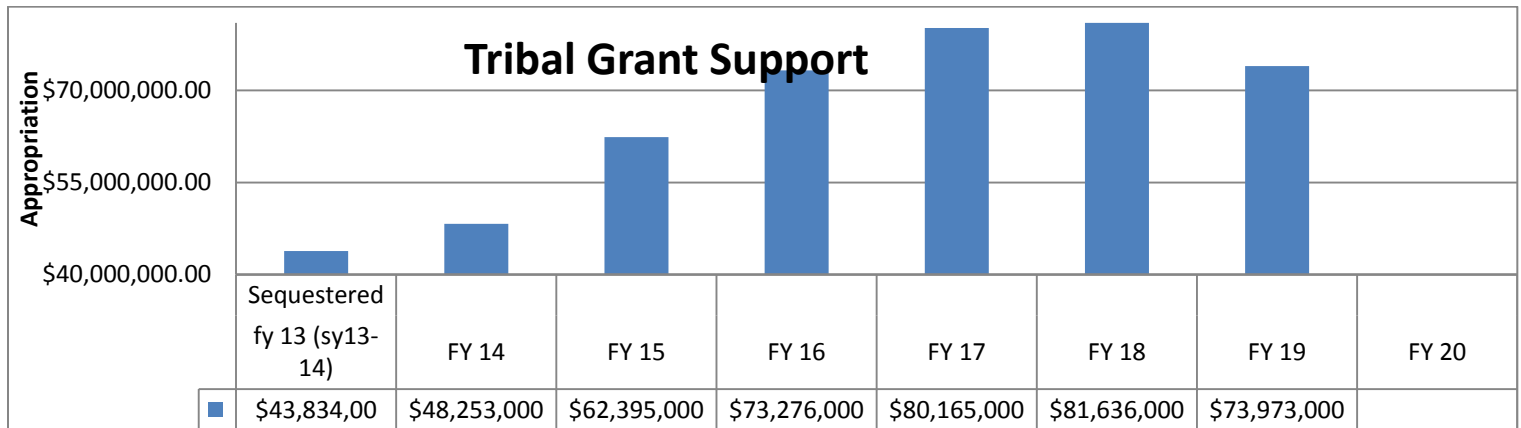
Charts illustrate history of appropriations, FY 19 request and FY 20 ?:



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Requested Action

1. Continue to annually increase these accounts (above FY 19)

2.

BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-ISEP (1.5%)	\$ 6,000,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Facility Operations (7.6%)	\$ 5,000,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Facility Maintenance(2.7%)	\$ 3,000,000
BIE-Elementary/Secondary Programs-Student Transportation (2.7%)	\$ 1,500,000
BIE – Tribal Grant Support Cost (.06%)	\$ 500,000
	\$ 16,000,000

[The actual need of these accounts, based on the Bureau of Indian Education laws, regulations and Budget Justifications, is well over \$ 60,000,000 but we realize the constraints placed on this committee]

3. Increase Early Child and Family Development (allow expansion, 10 schools) \$ 3,000,000

4. Construction – Education Construction. The BIA reports a nearly \$ 75,000,000 annual facility deterioration rate, \$ 388 million in deferred maintenance, and also reports a \$ 4.4 billion school replacement value.

Annual Need	
Replacement School Construction (2-3 schools per year)	\$ 75,000,000
Replacement Facility Construction (4-8 facilities per year)	\$ 55,000,000
Employee Housing Repair and Replacement	\$ 20,000,000
Facility Improvement and Repair	\$ 90,000,000

5. Support the **Tribal School Federal Insurance Parity Act** – allows access to Federal Employee Health Benefits for Tribal Schools.

6. Support reauthorization of the **Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act**.