



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Expansion of the *SafeSchools* Project to Involve Additional Schools on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe, its Emergency Operations Center, Community Health Representative, the Indian Health Service, Johns Hopkins and many other agencies have worked tirelessly to address the novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”); and

WHEREAS, On December 8, 2020, via Resolution No. 12-2020-298, the Council approved the *SafeSchools Project*, a partnership between the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health (JHCAIH), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the White Mountain Apache Tribe to support safe reopening of schools on the Reservation ; and

WHEREAS, The original resolution indicates the Theodore Roosevelt School and Dishchiibikoh Community School (Elementary, Jr. High, & High School) would participate in the study. Since the passing of the Resolution, other schools on the White Mountain Apache Reservation have expressed interest in joining this project, including:

- Whiteriver Elementary;
- Seven Mile Elementary;
- Cradleboard Elementary;
- McNary Elementary;
- Canyon Day Jr. High;
- John F. Kennedy School;
- East Fork Lutheran Mission School; and
- Alchesay High School; and

WHEREAS, Safely reopening schools amidst COVID-19 is of the utmost importance and including all schools will allow for a better understanding of surveillance testing for COVID-19 and help to ensure that Reservation students can safely transition from virtual learning back to in-person, classroom learning when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, JHCAIH, this day, proposes that the *Project SafeSchools* study be expanded to involve the above-listed schools; and

WHEREAS, The Council has considered the request by JHCAIH and finds that expanding the Project SafeSchools study to involve those schools listed above will help with the safe and healthy resumption of in-person school, and is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members.


BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves Whiteriver Elementary; Seven Mile Elementary; Cradleboard Elementary; McNary Elementary; Canyon Day Jr. High; John F. Kennedy School; East Fork Lutheran Mission School; and Alchesay High School to participate in the *Project SafeSchools* study, a partnership between the Johns Hopkins, the Indian Health Service, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, to develop a protocol to safely reopen schools within the White Mountain Apache community.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MAY 5, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ZERO against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 5/7/21
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood Date
Tribal Chairwoman

 5-7-2021
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date