

## Chichiltah-Jones Ranch Community School

### POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS – 18 MONTH TIMEFRAME

Thank you on behalf of Chichiltah Community School for this opportunity as we present our request for a new school. We appreciate your concurrence with us on the adverse, dilapidated instructional and residential buildings in dire need of replacement.

#### LAND AVAILABILITY

New Mexico Navajo South and Chichiltah school administration has 36.32 acres in legal description of land withdrawal sitting ready on the southeast side of the current school to be developed. The current schools sits on 5 acres and the rest is ready for the new school construction. We have on hand possession of original archeological and environmental assessments. Documents are currently being reviewed and updated to current status that will enable a start date to move by the time funding becomes available for the new school construction. School session and new construction will be in operation concurrently with our approach to new construction proposal.

#### UTILITIES AVAILABILITY

The Water tower with a capacity of 150,000.00 gallons is situated where the new school can directly tap into the distribution without existing placement of additional special construction.

The three lagoon cells have the capacity to accommodate the new school, currently only one cell gets usage. The project will be managed by Navajo Region Office, the design will be whom they elect and it will be beneficial to all involved.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Another main concern is the stability of the supporting structure. In particular, the buildings concrete masonry unit (CMU) constructed and are evident with cracked walls, sinking floors and the concrete depleting cohesiveness is deemed unsecure and unsafe school. With continual preventive maintenance, the school facility is assured extended useful life at Chichiltah Community School.

Despite efforts to remediate the encapsulated mole beneath the residential building the use of the residential hall has been in use since 2011, when it was renovated and since has seen an increase of a residential population in the dorm from 7 to 54 to date.

## EPA

We draw your attention to EPA's recent finding in the drinking water deficiencies of lead and copper exceeding the MCL limits and to the time weathered PTO roofing material which are leaking during inclement weather conditions, causing interference with instructional time and a musical chair effect on rotating students among classrooms.

In conclusion, Chichiltah has the land needed for a new school, has most of the land clearance necessary to start construction. We endorse the opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of this probable new gift for our children, of the community at Chichiltah, Navajo Nation, New Mexico.

Finally, it is recommended that in honor of the Navajo Code Talkers, we rename the School to Kee Etsicity Community School.



## ChiChilTah Jones Ranch Community School

How does your school support the mission of BIE (Title 25 CFR Part 32.3) to manifest consideration of the whole person, taking into account the spiritual, mental, physical, and cultural aspects of the individual?

Chichiltah Jones Ranch Community School embraces the Dine Philosophy of Learning and is the foundation for the planning for students, parents, and community. The Dine Philosophy of Learning Model emphasizes balancing life challenges and to persevere, spiritually, mentally, physically and culturally as an individual.

Chichiltah Jones Ranch Community School parents and community stakeholders have embraced the changes that are occurring at our school. They support the School Improvement Transformation Model that enhances the quality of student learning. Our goal is for high quality learning and is communicated to all stakeholders and school faculty. Chichiltah Jones Ranch Community School incorporates unity through professional communities.

Dine Language and Culture instruction is implemented daily. The school incorporates the Dine Education Standards into lessons to teach language, culture, history and government. In addition, the cultural component includes the areas of positive growth and development of self-esteem. This teaches our students to become resilient and persevere challenges in life. Students attain the importance of becoming college and career ready and lifelong learners.

Chichiltah-Jones Ranch Community School is a school in restructuring and awarded the 1003g School Improvement Funding. Through the grant, the school has incorporated a research base curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The academic focus is to increase proficiency for all students to perform at grade level. Instruction is based on implementing best practices and strategies. The teachers are highly qualified and are provided support by instructional coaches and highly structured professional development.

## ChiChiTah-Jones Ranch Community School

### EFFECTS OF SCHOOL CONDITIONS ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE
- INTERNET CONNECTIVITY
- POWER OUTAGES
- SCHOOL UTILITY SYSTEMS – WATER/GAS/ELECTRIC

#### Technology Justification for a New School

##### Current School

- Existing technology infrastructure was installed in 1999.
  - Cat5 cable
  - 10/100 Switches (some have been upgraded to gigabit)
  - Inadequate wireless coverage due to cabling issues & asbestos restrictions
- Impossible to run adequate cable for new technology needs.
- Wireless is not an option because of thick sandstone walls and cabling challenges
- Very difficult to install an security technology, cameras, controlled door access, intercom, etc because of infrastructure limitations
- Asbestos in older buildings
- School accreditation requires that the school is able to teach technology to students.. Very difficult since we cannot create immersive technology environments in the existing school.
- Internet speeds are a real challenge at the current site. The school is situated in a valley and has no line of sight to the closest microwave tower.

##### BANDWIDTH

- The fastest internet connection available is only 1.5Mbps; far below the recommended 10Mbps per 100 students.

##### LOCATION

##### New School

- Better security: Cameras, access control to lock and unlock doors, intercom, etc
  - Ability to deal with security issues much better.
  - Need to be able to know what the issue is and where it is happening, and to communicate reliably with the entire school.

- Faster Internet Speeds:
  - The new school would be located on top of a hill and would have line of sight to a microwave tower allowing up to 250Mbps speeds.
- Network upgrades:
  - Upgraded network technology to support the educational technology needed to prepare the students for their careers.
  - Wireless coverage throughout the school and common areas
  - Immersive technology:
  - PC Labs with immersive technology both for instruction and for teaching technology to students
  - Ability to keep up with technology to prepare students for the technology they will need to master for the job market.
- No Asbestos

### POWER OUTAGES

- Currently the school does not have a back-up power system. Power outages affect the safety and security of the school. In the past the school experienced total blackouts, i.e. school personnel was unable to call 911, parents and police in emergencies. The school had several lockdowns due to shootings and intruders.

### SCHOOL UTILITY SYSTEM – WATER/GAS/ELECTRIC

- PowerPoint Pictures



Hi, my name is Jess Kirwin, School Board Vice-President/Secretary. It is an honor and I am humbled and ready, in good faith, with high hopes, asking that Chichiltah-Jones Ranch be awarded a new school. Our school buildings are getting old and obsolete.

Chichiltah-Jones Ranch School is located in the largest land base community known as Eastern Agency, also known as the Checker Board Area because of land status.

Our school buildings were built in the 1940's. Both the school and dormitory buildings are aging and may cause health hazards to our students and employees.

Our dormitory was closed last year due to broken water pipes that created mold underneath the buildings. Our sewer system, lagoon and the boiler system are very old. After all, our buildings are 74, going on 75 years old.

There is no privacy for our students in the bedrooms, showers or sleep areas. Because of this, our children are turning away and choosing to attend Gallup McKinley County Schools.

We do not have a security system in check; only a night watchman. Another problem is with law enforcement, the Navajo Nation Police Department is about 100 miles away.

Today, facility management personnel have to travel about 75 miles one way to keep our school in check. Repairs are made and another thing becomes faulty and is broken.

Our community is known for its fighting force of Navajo Code Talkers such as Chester Nez, one of the original 29. Other Code Talkers include Robert Wally, Kee Etsitty and Thomas H. Begay. Two Miss Navajos came from our community. In 1987, Mother Theresa personally offered blessings for our school.

Our education system is not broken as our quality teachers are striving very diligently to create meaningful, educated, sound students. We know these students will become future teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, etc. They are the future of the Navajo Nation. After all, our Chief Manuelito said, "Education is the ladder." For this to happen, we need good, sound buildings in which to teach our children.

We are at home here, we are not isolated. We are looking into the future for our children and community. Our school was not constructed with what our mission statement says. The community supports us. We as a school board support the school. "Go my son, get an education," this is what we want for our children.

We are in dire need of a new school so our children and employees will proudly say,  
"This is my school!"