NIEA’s policy priorities and advocacy work are developed and guided by resolutions drafted and passed by our membership. Resolutions cover a wide spectrum of topics related to Native education and serve as a key resource in communicating membership priorities to policy makers.

Submitting Resolutions
Members shape the work and goals of NIEA by submitting Non-Emergency Resolutions 60 days in advance of NIEA’s Annual Convention. NIEA members may also submit Emergency Resolutions on-site at the Annual Convention for issues that require immediate action. Both Emergency and Non-Emergency Resolutions should deepen NIEA’s purpose and reflect the membership’s best interests. Resolutions that do not meet the qualifications below will be referred to the NIEA Board of Directors for consideration.

Both Non-Emergency and Emergency Resolutions should be submitted to NIEA via the following link:

Non-Emergency Resolutions
Non-Emergency Resolutions must fulfill the following criteria:
1. Address a single issue that impacts Native students across the country.
2. Include provisions that further NIEA’s mission to better support culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States.

Under the NIEA Constitution and By-Laws enacted in 2018, Non-Emergency Resolutions are due 60 days before Convention. The 60-day period will enable NIEA to engage in dialogue with Native serving organizations focused on specific issues related to our mission.

*The deadline to submit Non-Emergency Resolutions for consideration at the 2021 Annual Convention is August 13, 2021.*

Emergency Resolutions
Emergency Resolutions must meet the following qualifications:
1. Address a single issue outside of existing NIEA goals that impacts Native students nationally.
2. Include provisions that further NIEA’s mission to better support culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States.
3. Require NIEA to take action within two weeks of the last day of the Convention, October 9, 2020. If the action stated in a resolution does not have to be completed within two weeks of the last day of the Convention and is not substantially different from existing NIEA goals and objectives, then the resolution does not qualify for emergency status. Emergency Resolutions may be directed to the NIEA Board of Directors to take necessary action.

Emergency resolutions must be submitted by a member in good standing at least 24 hours before the last General Assembly.

*Emergency Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Resolution Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the last general assembly during which NIEA will conduct business (October 16, 2021).*
Resolutions that have not been submitted to the Resolutions Committee in writing and that do not follow the above outlined process WILL NOT be considered during the Convention and will be referred to the NIEA Board of Directors for consideration.

Resolution Categories
All resolutions submitted for consideration during the Annual Convention should correlate with the following general themes, which align with NIEA’s work to strategically further improved educational opportunities for Native students:

1. Advocating for Investment in Native Education
2. Building Capacity for Native Control of Native Education
3. Putting First Kids First in Native Education
4. Promoting Professional Excellence for Native Teachers
5. Supporting Native Language and Culturally-Relevant Education
6. Advancing Cradle to Career Educational Opportunities
7. Promoting Native Student Achievement and Success
8. Promoting Progress through Organizational Development

Resolutions Review Process
The NIEA Resolutions Committee will review all resolutions that meet the deadline dates. All resolutions must meet the guidelines outlined above and in the NIEA Constitution and By-Laws. NIEA reserves the right to correct grammar, misspellings, typos, and other errors; to revise resolutions to confirm to official format; to modify the resolution to more clearly articulate and fit within the scope and parameters of NIEA’s mission; and/or to consolidate similar resolutions into one if they cover the same issue and call for similar actions.

In advance of the 2021 elections, NIEA will host one (1) virtual session to review Non-Emergency Resolutions and Emergency Resolutions submitted and deemed ready for presentation by the Resolutions Committee before the beginning of voting. This session will provide an opportunity for Members to engage in healthy discussions on the proposed resolutions and raise any concerns.

Voting on Resolutions in 2021
All Non-Emergency and most Emergency resolutions will be voted on via electronic ballots when membership votes on NIEA Board candidates. As such, members will vote on Resolutions and Board candidates simultaneously. Virtual voting for Board of Director positions, Non-Emergency Resolutions, and Emergency Resolutions submitted by 9am (CST) on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, will begin at 9am (CST) on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 and will continue until 5pm (CST) on Friday, October 15, 2021. On-site voting will be available in the designated voting area at the 2021 Annual Convention & Trade Show in the designated area between 9am -5pm (CST) on Friday, October 15, 2021.

Emergency Resolutions submitted between 9am (CST) on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 and 24 hours prior to the start of final General Assembly will be considered during the final General Assembly, if they meet all requirements for an Emergency Resolution.

All adopted Resolutions will be referred to the NIEA Board of Directors for publication and implementation. A report will be provided to the membership at Convention on the implementation of Resolutions adopted at the previous five-year’s Conventions. Passed resolutions from previous conventions may also be found at the NIEA website.

Please contact NIEA Senior Legislative Associate Adrianne Elliott at gelliott@niea.org or 202-847-0040 with any questions or concerns.