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14  
15 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

16  
17 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
18 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

19 Stephen C., a minor, by Frank C., guardian ad  
litem; Anna D., a minor, by Elsa D., guardian  
20 ad litem; Durell P., a minor, by Billie P.,  
guardian ad litem; Taylor P., a minor, by Billie  
21 P., guardian ad litem; Levi R., a minor, by  
Laila R., guardian ad litem; Leo R., a minor,  
22 by Laila R., guardian ad litem; Jenny A., a  
minor, by Jasmine A., guardian ad litem;  
23 Jeremy A., a minor, by Jasmine A., guardian  
ad litem; Jordan A., a minor, by Jasmine A.,  
24 guardian ad litem; Freddy P., a minor, by  
Billie P., guardian ad litem; Moana L., a  
25 minor, by Monica L., guardian ad litem; Olaf  
D., a minor, by Elsa D., guardian ad litem; and  
26 The Native American Disability Law Center,

27 *Plaintiffs,*

28 v.

No. 3:17-cv-08004-SPL

**REDACTED**

**THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT  
FOR DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

1 Bureau of Indian Education; United States  
2 Department of the Interior; Ryan Zinke, in his  
3 official capacity as Secretary of the Interior;  
4 Tara Sweeney, in her official capacity as  
5 Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs;  
6 Tony Dearman, in his official capacity as  
7 Director of the Bureau of Indian Education;  
8 Maxine Roanhorse-Dineyahze, in her official  
9 capacity as Acting Principal of Havasupai  
10 Elementary School,

*Defendants.*

## INTRODUCTION

11 1. Twelve Havasupai students and the Native American Disability Law Center  
12 (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) bring this Amended Complaint to correct longstanding  
13 educational deprivations that have for years denied Havasupai children meaningful and  
14 equitable educational opportunity. Defendants—the federal government agencies and  
15 officials responsible for administering and ensuring the provision of education to Native  
16 students in the United States<sup>1</sup>—have knowingly failed to provide basic general education, a  
17 system of special education, and necessary wellness and mental health support to  
18 Havasupai students, resulting in indefensible deficits in academic achievement and  
19 educational attainment.

20 2. Havasupai Elementary School (“the School”), which serves students in  
21 kindergarten through the eighth grade, is operated by Defendant Bureau of Indian  
22 Education (“BIE”) and is the only option available to student Plaintiffs to obtain  
23 elementary education in their community. In direct violation of the numerous federal  
24 statutes and regulations that prescribe with specificity the content and form of the general  
25 and special education that must be provided in BIE-administered schools, federal

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26 <sup>1</sup> Defendants are the United States Department of the Interior (“DOI”); United States  
27 Bureau of Indian Education (“BIE”); Defendant Ryan Zinke, in his official capacity as U.S.  
28 Secretary of the Interior; Tara Sweeney, in her official capacity as Assistant Secretary—  
Indian Affairs; Tony Dearman, in his official capacity as Director of the Bureau of Indian  
Education; and Maxine Roanhorse-Dineyahze, in her official capacity as Acting Principal  
of Havasupai Elementary School (collectively, “Defendants”).

1 government officials have systemically deprived student Plaintiffs of meaningful access to  
2 education by the following means:

- 3 • failure to provide general education curriculum and instruction in any  
4 content areas other than math and reading and writing;
- 5 • persistent understaffing and teaching vacancies;
- 6 • denial of basic educational resources such as textbooks, a functioning  
7 school library, and extracurricular activities;
- 8 • lack of a system to provide special education and failure to provide a full  
9 day of public education to students with disabilities;
- 10 • excessive exclusionary discipline and abusive recourse to law  
11 enforcement;
- 12 • failure to provide necessary wellness and mental health support; and
- 13 • exclusion of the community from school decision making.

14 3. Numerous federal statutes and regulations, including the Indian Education  
15 Act and its implementing regulations, expressly require Defendants to provide an education  
16 to Native American children that meets basic educational standards and enables students to  
17 access post-secondary educational opportunities. *See, e.g.*, 25 U.S.C. §§ 2000, 2001;  
18 25 C.F.R. §§ 32.3-32.4.

19 4. Binding regulations describe with specificity the content and form of the  
20 education that must be provided in BIE schools, including the subject areas that must be  
21 taught and the educational resources that must be available. 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.11-36.51.

22 5. Defendants are likewise directly responsible for enforcing federal statutes that  
23 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in schools funded and administered by the  
24 BIE. Since at least as early as 1978, Congress has made clear that Defendants bear the  
25 obligation to ensure that all Bureau-administered schools are in compliance with Section  
26 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”), which prohibits discrimination on  
27 the basis of disability in federally funded programs. Pub. L. No. 95-561, § 1125, 92 Stat.  
28 2143, 2319 (1978); 25 U.S.C. § 2005(b)(1); Exec. Order No. 13,160, 65 Fed. Reg. 39775  
(June 23, 2000).

6. Despite these legal mandates, Defendants have failed to provide basic general

1 education to students at Havasupai Elementary School and to establish a system to deliver  
2 specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for students with  
3 disabilities—including but not limited to students whose ability to learn has been impacted  
4 by exposure to childhood adversity—to access the benefits of a public education. These  
5 deprivations violate Defendants’ substantive obligations under the Indian Education Act as  
6 amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and their implementing  
7 regulations. To redress this deprivation of rights, Plaintiffs bring this complaint for  
8 declaratory and injunctive relief.

9 7. Plaintiffs’ allegations against Defendants are based upon information and  
10 belief. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because it  
11 arises under federal law. Venue is appropriate in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1402(a)  
12 because student Plaintiffs reside in the District of Arizona.

### 13 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### 14 **I. PARTIES**

##### 15 *Plaintiffs*

16 8. **Plaintiff Stephen C.** is a thirteen-year-old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
17 Havasupai reservation in Supai, Arizona. Stephen C. recently completed the seventh grade  
18 at Canyon State Academy, a placement made by the Havasupai Elementary School through  
19 his Individual Education Program (“IEP”). He is legally required to attend school. Stephen  
20 C. attended Havasupai Elementary School from kindergarten until the School placed him at  
21 Canyon State Academy. Plaintiff Stephen C. has been identified as a student with a  
22 disability and is eligible to receive special education services. The Court has granted the  
23 petition of Frank C., guardian of Stephen C., to act as Stephen C.’s guardian *ad litem* in  
24 connection with this litigation.

25 9. **Plaintiff Anna D.** is a ten-year-old Havasupai girl who resides on the  
26 Havasupai reservation in Supai, Arizona. Anna D. attended Havasupai Elementary School  
27 from kindergarten through third grade. Because Havasupai Elementary School could not  
28 meet her educational needs, Anna D. completed the fourth grade at an Arizona public

1 school. Anna D is legally required to attend school. The Court has granted the petition of  
2 Elsa D., mother of Anna D., to act as Elsa D.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this  
3 litigation.

4 10. **Plaintiff Durell P.** is a fourteen-year-old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
5 Havasupai reservation in Supai, Arizona. Durell P. recently completed the eighth grade at  
6 Canyon State Academy, a placement made by the Havasupai Elementary School through  
7 his Individual Education Program (IEP) . He is legally required to attend school. Durell P.  
8 was attended at Havasupai Elementary School from kindergarten until his placement by the  
9 School at Canyon State Academy, except for a 45-day period when the School compelled  
10 him to enroll in a residential placement because the School could not meet his educational  
11 needs. Plaintiff Durell P. has been identified as a student with a disability and is eligible to  
12 receive special education services. The Court has granted the petition of Billie P., mother of  
13 Durell P., to act as Durell P.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this litigation.

14 11. **Plaintiff Taylor P.** is a seven-year-old Havasupai girl who resides on the  
15 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Taylor P. recently completed the first grade at  
16 Havasupai Elementary School and is legally required to attend school. The Court has  
17 granted the petition of Billie P., mother of Taylor P., to act as Taylor P.'s guardian *ad litem*  
18 in connection with this litigation.

19 12. **Plaintiff Levi R.** is a seventeen-year-old Havasupai boy who resides in  
20 Coconino County, Arizona. Levi R. attended Havasupai Elementary School from  
21 kindergarten through the beginning of the eighth grade, except for a two-month period in  
22 2014 when he was receiving online education services because the School could not meet  
23 his educational needs. Levi R. is legally required to attend school. Due to the inadequacy of  
24 the education provided at the School, Levi R.'s mother, Laila R., moved her family out of  
25 Supai, Arizona when Levi R. was in the eighth grade. Levi R. recently completed the  
26 eighth grade at a public school in Coconino County. Plaintiff Levi R. has been identified as  
27 a student with a disability and is eligible to receive special education services. The Court  
28 has granted the petition of Laila R., mother of Levi R., to act as Levi R.'s guardian *ad litem*

1 in connection with this litigation.<sup>2</sup>

2       13. **Plaintiff Leo R.** is a seventeen-year-old Havasupai boy who resides in  
3 Coconino County, Arizona. Leo R. attended Havasupai Elementary School from  
4 kindergarten through the eighth grade. Because Havasupai Elementary School does not  
5 provide a high school education, Leo R. left his family in Supai, Arizona in order to attend  
6 a public school in Arizona in the ninth grade. Leo R. recently completed the eleventh grade  
7 at a public school in Coconino County, and is legally required to attend school. The Court  
8 has granted the petition of Laila R., mother of Leo R., to act as Leo R.'s guardian *ad litem*  
9 in connection with this litigation.

10       14. **Plaintiff Jenny A.** is a fifteen-year-old Havasupai girl who resides on the  
11 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Jenny A. attended Havasupai Elementary School  
12 from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Due to the inadequacy of the education provided  
13 at the School, Jenny A.'s mother, Jasmine A., decided to enroll her daughter at a BIE  
14 boarding school in Oklahoma. Jenny A. recently completed the tenth grade, and she is  
15 legally required to attend school. Plaintiff Jenny A. has been identified as a student with a  
16 disability and is eligible to receive special education services. The Court has granted the  
17 petition of Jasmine A., mother of Jenny A., to act as Jenny A.'s guardian *ad litem* in  
18 connection with this litigation.

19       15. **Plaintiff Jeremy A.** is a fourteen-year-old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
20 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Jeremy A. attended Havasupai Elementary  
21 School from kindergarten through the fifth grade. Due to the inadequacy of the education  
22 provided at the School, Jeremy A.'s mother, Jasmine A., decided to enroll Jeremy A. at a  
23 BIE boarding school in Oklahoma. Jeremy A. recently completed the eighth grade, and he  
24 is legally required to attend school. The Court has granted the petition of Jasmine A.,  
25 mother of Jeremy A., to act as Jeremy A.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this  
26

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27 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs acknowledge the Court's rulings dismissing certain Plaintiffs and dismissing  
28 some causes of action against certain Defendants. Plaintiffs have not modified the  
pleadings to reflect those rulings solely in order to preserve their rights on appeal.

1 litigation.

2       16.     **Plaintiff Jordan A.** is an eleven-year-old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
3 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Jordan A. attended Havasupai Elementary  
4 School from kindergarten through the third grade. Due to the inadequacy of the education  
5 provided at the School, Jordan A.'s mother, Jasmine A., decided to enroll Jordan A. at a  
6 BIE boarding school in Oklahoma. Jordan A. recently completed the fifth grade, and he is  
7 legally required to attend school. Plaintiff Jordan A. has been identified as a student with a  
8 disability and is eligible to receive special education services. The Court has granted the  
9 petition of Jasmine A., mother of Jordan A., to act as Jordan A.'s guardian *ad litem* in  
10 connection with this litigation.

11       17.     **Plaintiff Freddy P.** is a five-year old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
12 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Freddy P. is scheduled to begin kindergarten at  
13 Havasupai Elementary School in August 2018, at which point he will be legally required to  
14 attend school. While enrolled in the Havasupai Head Start program, Freddy P. was  
15 identified as a student with a disability and received special education services. Plaintiffs  
16 have submitted to the Court the petition of Billie P., mother of Freddy P., to act as Freddy  
17 P.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this litigation.

18       18.     **Plaintiff Moana L.** is a six-year old Havasupai girl who resides on the  
19 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Moana L. recently completed kindergarten at  
20 Havasupai Elementary School, and she is scheduled to begin first grade at Havasupai  
21 Elementary School in August 2018. She is legally required to attend school. Plaintiffs have  
22 submitted to the Court the petition of Monica L., grandmother of Moana L., to act as  
23 Moana L.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this litigation.

24       19.     **Plaintiff Olaf D.** is a five-year-old Havasupai boy who resides on the  
25 Havasupai Reservation in Supai, Arizona. Olaf D. is scheduled to begin kindergarten at  
26 Havasupai Elementary School in August 2018, at which point he will be legally required to  
27 attend school. Olaf D. successfully graduated from the Havasupai Head Start program.  
28 Plaintiffs have submitted to the Court the petition of Elsa D., mother of Olaf D., to act as

1 Olaf D.'s guardian *ad litem* in connection with this litigation.

2       20.     **Plaintiff Native American Disability Law Center** (“NADLC”) is a 501(c)  
3 nonprofit organization based in Farmington, New Mexico that advocates for the legal rights  
4 of Native Americans with disabilities. NADLC is a Protection and Advocacy Organization  
5 authorized by relevant federal statutes to initiate legal action designed to protect the rights  
6 of persons with disabilities. *See* 42 §§ U.S.C. 15041 *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. §§ 10801 *et seq.*  
7 NADLC’s mission is to advocate so that the rights of Native Americans with disabilities in  
8 the Four Corners area are enforced, strengthened, and brought in harmony with their  
9 communities.

10       21.     NADLC has received at least eight requests for assistance concerning the  
11 failure of Havasupai Elementary School to provide special education instruction, related  
12 services, and appropriate resources to enable students with disabilities to participate in  
13 public education. NADLC provided legal assistance in four of those cases. NADLC has  
14 filed two administrative complaints relating to Havasupai Elementary School’s failure to  
15 provide appropriate special education and related services. Both of those cases were settled,  
16 and in both cases the BIE failed to provide the student with the services promised in the  
17 Settlement Agreement.

18       22.     NADLC has devoted significant organizational resources to identifying and  
19 counteracting Defendants’ practices. As a direct consequence, Defendants’ practices have  
20 caused NADLC to divert its scarce resources from other efforts to promote and protect the  
21 rights of Native Americans with disabilities. Continued advocacy on behalf of Havasupai  
22 students with disabilities against Defendants will significantly diminish NADLC’s  
23 resources and impact its ability to serve other Native Americans with disabilities in the  
24 Four Corners area.

25       23.     In addition to such individual advocacy that NADLC has provided its clients,  
26 NADLC filed a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request to obtain public records  
27 from the BIE about Havasupai Elementary School. NADLC filed the FOIA request on  
28 May 21, 2015. NADLC initially received only a partial response from the BIE. On



1 March 21, 2017, NADLC filed a complaint against the federal government in U.S. District  
2 Court for the District of Columbia to address the BIE’s failure to provide documents  
3 pursuant to the 2015 FOIA request. This case is still pending.

4 **Defendants**

5 24. **Defendant Bureau of Indian Education (“BIE”)** is a bureau within the U.S.  
6 Department of the Interior. Pursuant to Department of the Interior regulations, the Assistant  
7 Secretary—Indian Affairs has delegated to the BIE the authority to provide education  
8 services to Native American children, including children with disabilities. The BIE is  
9 responsible for meeting the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the  
10 educational needs of Native American children residing on reservations and attending  
11 elementary and secondary schools funded by the Department of the Interior.

12 25. **Defendant United States Department of the Interior (“DOI”)** is a federal  
13 agency. As the parent agency of the BIE, the DOI is responsible for meeting the  
14 requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the educational needs of Native  
15 American children residing on reservations and attending elementary and secondary  
16 schools funded by the Secretary of the Interior.

17 26. **Defendant Ryan Zinke**, sued here in his official capacity, is the U.S.  
18 Secretary of the Interior (the “Secretary”) and as such is responsible for meeting the  
19 requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the educational needs of Native  
20 American children residing on reservations and attending elementary and secondary  
21 schools funded by the Department of the Interior.

22 27. **Defendant Tara Sweeney**, sued here in her official capacity, is the Assistant  
23 Secretary—Indian Affairs within DOI. By regulation, she is responsible for meeting the  
24 requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the educational needs of Native  
25 American children residing on reservations and attending elementary and secondary  
26 schools funded by the Department of the Interior.

27 28. **Defendant Tony Dearman**, sued here in his official capacity, is Director of  
28 the BIE. As Director, he oversees all operations of the BIE. As such, he is responsible for

1 ensuring the constitutional, statutory, civil, and human rights of all Native American  
2 students. By delegation of authority by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, the  
3 Director of the BIE is responsible for meeting the requirements of Section 504 of the  
4 Rehabilitation Act and the educational needs of Native American children residing on  
5 reservations and attending elementary and secondary schools funded by DOI.

6 29. **Defendant Maxine Roanhorse-Dineyahze**, sued here in her official  
7 capacity, is the Principal of Havasupai Elementary School. In that capacity, she is  
8 responsible for assisting Defendant Dearman in ensuring that the BIE meets the  
9 requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the educational needs of Native  
10 American children attending Havasupai Elementary School.

11 **II. DEFENDANTS' OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATION TO STUDENT**  
12 **PLAINTIFFS**

13 30. The Havasupai are a federally recognized Native American tribe who has  
14 resided for centuries in the Grand Canyon. The Havasupai Nation is located on a  
15 reservation established by the United States government on a parcel of land along the  
16 western corner of the Grand Canyon's South Rim. The only school on the Havasupai  
17 reservation is Havasupai Elementary School, which currently serves approximately  
18 70 students and is both funded and operated by the BIE. It is not controlled or operated by  
19 the Havasupai government and is not subject to the jurisdiction of any State Educational  
20 Agency ("SEA") other than the BIE. 20 U.S.C. § 7801(30)(C).

21 31. The federal government has committed to providing education for Native  
22 American students attending schools funded or operated by the BIE. Title XI of the  
23 Education Amendments of 1978, as amended by the Native American Education  
24 Improvement Act of 2001 ("Title XI"), expressly states that in order to fulfill the federal  
25 government's "unique and continuing trust responsibility . . . for the education of Indian  
26 children," the "Federal Government has *the sole responsibility* for the operation and  
27 financial support of the [BIE] funded school system. . . ." 25 U.S.C. § 2000 (emphasis  
28 added). The Act further "vest[s] in the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs all functions

1 with respect to formulation and establishment of policy and procedure and supervision of  
2 programs and expenditures of Federal funds for the purpose of Indian education  
3 administered by the Bureau.” 25 U.S.C. § 2006(a).

4 **A. Legal Requirements To Deliver Basic Education at Havasupai  
Elementary School to All Student Plaintiffs**

5 32. The BIE must provide Native American children “with educational  
6 opportunities that *equal or exceed those for all other students in the United States.*”  
7 25 U.S.C. § 2001(a)(1) (emphasis added). Federal statutes and regulations refer to  
8 Defendants’ obligation to provide education that is “adequate,” “comprehensive,” “of the  
9 highest quality,” and that meets “basic elementary and secondary educational needs.”  
10 25 C.F.R. §§ 32.4(r), 32.3; 25 U.S.C. § 2000. These statutory and regulatory obligations are  
11 reinforced by the federal government’s “trust” responsibility for Native American students.  
12 *See United States v. Navajo Nation*, 537 U.S. 488, 506 (2003).

13 33. Federal statutes recognize Defendants’ obligation to meet the distinct  
14 educational and cultural needs of Native students attending BIE schools. Title VI of the  
15 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, for example, requires Defendants to work to  
16 ensure “that programs that serve Indian children are of the highest quality and provide for  
17 not only the basic elementary and secondary educational needs, but also the unique  
18 educational and culturally related academic needs of these children.” 20 U.S.C. § 7401.

19 **(1) Defendants’ Legal Obligations To Provide Required Instruction**

20 34. Defendant BIE has issued comprehensive binding regulations detailing the  
21 content and form that a basic education must take. For each age group, the regulations  
22 articulate the governing educational philosophy, enumerate the instructional content that  
23 must be covered, and describe the educational concepts that must be incorporated into the  
24 curriculum. *See, e.g.*, 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.21; 36.22; 36.23, 36.24.

25 35. Defendants are obligated to take into account the cultural, ethnic, and  
26 linguistic needs of Native students. Each “school’s language arts program shall assess the  
27 English and native language abilities of its students and provide instruction that teaches  
28 and/or maintains both the English and the primary native language of the school

1 population,” and each such program must “meet local tribal approval.” 25 C.F.R.  
2 § 36.20(b)(1). Additionally, “[t]he school program shall include aspects of the native  
3 culture in all curriculum areas,” and the content of the program must “meet local tribal  
4 approval.” 25 C.F.R. § 36.20(b)(2). Each school must “assess the learning styles of its  
5 students and provide instruction based upon that assessment,” and provide “for at least one  
6 field trip per child per year to broaden social and academic experiences.” 25 C.F.R.  
7 §§ 36.20(b)(3), (b)(4).

8 (2) **Defendants’ Legal Obligations To Ensure Adequate Staffing and**  
9 **Instruction**

10 36. Defendants are subject to a series of regulations specifying the staffing and  
11 administrative requirements at BIE schools in order to ensure both the quality and quantity  
12 of instruction and educational support received by Native students. *See* 25 C.F.R.  
13 §§ 36.11(a)(5); 36.42; 36.50(a); 25 U.S.C. § 2000.

14 37. To ensure an adequate amount of instruction, BIE regulations further provide  
15 that any day that meets only “three-fourths of the instructional hours” may not be counted  
16 as a full school day except in the rare case of emergencies arising from “an uncontrollable  
17 circumstance during the school day.” 25 C.F.R. § 36.20(a).

18 (3) **Defendants’ Legal Obligations To Provide Appropriate**  
19 **Instructional Resources and Activities**

20 38. BIE regulations mandate that Defendants provide Native students with  
21 appropriate instructional resources as well as the opportunity to participate in a well-  
22 balanced range of student activities. Specifically, these regulations set forth a series of  
23 requirements that Defendants must satisfy in the provision of learning materials, such as  
24 textbooks, and student activities at BIE schools. *See* 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.40, 36.41, 36.43.

25 39. Multiple statutes and regulations obligate Defendants to engage tribal  
26 community members in various areas of school decisionmaking. Notably, this regulatory  
27 regime envisions the role of a local school board that participates in setting and assessing  
28 educational goals. *See* 25 C.F.R. § 36.10(b); *see also* 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.13(a)(c), 36.12(b)(1),

1 36.20(b); 36.41(a), 36.12(b)(1), 36.42(a)(4).

2 **B. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Prohibits Discrimination Against**  
3 **Students with Disabilities**

4 40. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides that “[n]o otherwise qualified  
5 individual with a disability . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded  
6 from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under .  
7 . . any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency.” 29 U.S.C. § 794(a). A  
8 “program or activity” includes a school system, 29 U.S.C. § 794(b)(2)(B), and a disability  
9 is defined broadly to include any “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
10 one or more life activities,” such as (but not limited to), “caring for oneself, performing  
11 manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending,  
12 speaking, breathing, *learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating,* and  
13 working.” 42 U.S.C. §§ 12102(1)(A), (2)(A) (emphasis added).

14 41. Section 504 requires that Defendants ensure that all children with disabilities  
15 have meaningful access to public education. “Access” to public education for students with  
16 disabilities is understood broadly to refer both to physical accessibility of the school site  
17 and the students’ ability to receive a benefit from public education.

18 42. Under Section 504, Defendants must guarantee students with disabilities an  
19 “equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same  
20 level of achievement, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the person’s needs.”  
21 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(2). Therefore, a federally funded education system may be found in  
22 violation of Section 504 where the entity’s practices preclude students with disabilities  
23 from obtaining system benefits realized by students without disabilities. *See New Mexico*  
24 *Ass’n. for Retarded Citizens v. State of New Mexico*, 678 F.2d 847, 853 (10th Cir. 1982).

25 43. Section 504’s nondiscrimination mandates require Defendants to ensure  
26 access to appropriate educational settings for students with disabilities; establish and  
27 conduct identification, evaluation, and placement procedures for students with disabilities;  
28 and establish and implement procedural safeguards for any actions related to the

1 “identification, evaluation, or educational placement” of students with disabilities.  
2 34 C.F.R. §§ 104.32, 104.34, 104.35, 104.36.

3 44. Section 504 further requires Defendants to provide educational services to  
4 students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment possible and appropriate to  
5 meet the students’ educational needs. 34 C.F.R. § 104.34.

6 45. Defendants must tailor the services made available to “meet [the] individual  
7 educational needs” of students with disabilities “as adequately as the needs of” students  
8 without disabilities. 34 C.F.R. § 104.33(b)(1). Defendants are prohibited from offering only  
9 a predetermined universe of placement options.

10 46. Section 504 prohibits retaliation against individuals who advocate on behalf  
11 of students with disabilities. *See* 34 C.F.R. § 104.61.

### 12 **III. EXPERIENCES OF STUDENT PLAINTIFFS**

13 47. **Plaintiff Stephen C.** is a rising eighth grader who was enrolled in Havasupai  
14 Elementary School from Fall 2009. The School placed him at Canyon State Academy as  
15 part of his Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the 2017-18 school year.

16 48. Stephen C. has been denied access to a general-education curriculum and  
17 culturally relevant instruction at Havasupai Elementary School. At Havasupai Elementary  
18 School, he received no formal instruction in any content area other than math and English.

19 49. Stephen C. has been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
20 Havasupai Elementary School. Stephen C.’s teachers have repeatedly left during the middle  
21 of the school year. In particular, in fifth grade, Stephen C. was taught by a series of  
22 temporary teachers who stayed only two weeks at a time before a permanent teaching  
23 position was filled. Along with other sixth-grade students at the School, Stephen C.  
24 received much of his instruction during the 2016-2017 school year in the same classroom  
25 with seventh- and eighth-grade students.

26 50. Stephen C. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning  
27 library, extracurricular activities, and field trips. Stephen C. has endured multiple adverse  
28 childhood experiences, which negatively affect child development and impact the ability to

1 carry out basic life activities necessary to access education, including learning, thinking,  
2 reading, concentrating, and communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete  
3 incidents, but consists of long-term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Stephen  
4 C. and his family have experienced historical trauma, including family experience with  
5 boarding schools, which has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed  
6 to present day adversity. [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED] Stephen C. has also  
25 experienced a traumatic classroom-based arrest and referral to the juvenile justice system.  
26 As a result of his bad memories related to this arrest, Stephen C. feels disengaged from  
27 school and associates school with maltreatment. Stephen C. routinely sees other children  
28 act out of control in the classroom and on the playground. For example, it is common

1 knowledge that students drink in the school bathroom and students have been treated for  
2 ingesting cleaning supplies at the School.

3 51. [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]

11 52. As a result of Defendants’ failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
12 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the impact of  
13 adversity and complex trauma on Stephen C.’s ability to learn, read, think, concentrate,  
14 and/or communicate, Steven C. has been deprived of meaningful access to the benefits of a  
15 public education. Stephen C.’s challenges with emotional self-regulation, behavior, and  
16 concentration have resulted in his repeated exclusion from the classroom. Stephen C. has  
17 missed a significant amount of instruction time because he has been repeatedly sent home  
18 from school early, suspended, and referred to the juvenile justice system. Stephen C. has  
19 also struggled academically and has tremendous difficulty reading and writing.

20 53. Plaintiff Stephen C. is a student who has been identified with Attention  
21 Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (“ADHD”) and is eligible to receive special education  
22 services. In addition to needing special education services, Stephen C. requires positive  
23 behavior support and counseling services to address his behaviors and mental health needs.

24 54. As a direct result of Defendants’ failure to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
25 School has a system in place to deliver special education, Stephen C. has not been provided  
26 with the specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for him to  
27 access the benefits of a public education.

28 55. Because Havasupai Elementary School lacks the capacity to meet Plaintiff



1 Stephen C.'s behavioral and mental health needs, Stephen C. was repeatedly suspended and  
2 subjected to punitive school discipline for behavior that is a manifestation of his disability  
3 and is a result of the School's failure to deliver required special education and related  
4 services. Stephen C. was sent home from school early four days per week, on average, over  
5 a period of years. As a result, his grandfather and legal guardian, Frank C., estimates that  
6 he attended school only approximately half of the time for years. The School regularly  
7 failed to provide Stephen C.'s guardians with any written records of disciplinary action  
8 against Stephen C. or to assign him homework or remedial work when he was suspended or  
9 sent home early.

10 56. Plaintiff Stephen C. has been subject to classroom-based arrest and  
11 prosecution by law enforcement in response to classroom behavior that is a manifestation  
12 of his disability and that is a result of the School's failure to deliver required special  
13 education and related services. In September 2016, eleven-year-old Stephen C. pulled the  
14 cord out of the back of a computer monitor in the classroom. The police were called to  
15 respond to the incident, and Stephen C. was indicted in federal court.

16 57. On or about November 21, 2016, Havasupai Elementary School excluded  
17 Stephen C. from attending class as a result of behavior that was a manifestation of his  
18 disability. Stephen C. was subsequently placed on a "homebound" schedule, and did not  
19 receive any instruction for months, except for intermittent one-hour tutoring sessions about  
20 once per week. By the end of his sixth grade year, Stephen C. was permitted to attend only  
21 approximately one hour of classroom instruction at Havasupai Elementary School each  
22 school day.

23 58. Although Stephen C. was entitled to counseling under his IEP, School did not  
24 provide him with the hours of counseling to which he was entitled in under his IEP. .

25 59. Stephen C.'s guardians were not provided with basic information regarding  
26 Stephen C.'s school program at Havasupai Elementary School. For example, they were  
27 never provided with a student handbook. They have not been adequately informed of their  
28 rights as educational decisionmakers. Nor has the School taken important steps to support

1 their engagement in Stephen C.'s education and school.

2         60. As a result of Defendants' failure to ensure access to basic education, special  
3 education, and related services, Plaintiff Stephen C. is far behind in all academic areas.  
4 Because Defendants have denied him access to basic education, Stephen C. will be in the  
5 eighth grade but can barely read and write. Although Stephen C.'s guardian, Frank C.,  
6 strongly prefers to have Stephen C. live with his family in his community, Frank C. met  
7 with Stephen C.'s special education team from School and the School's special education  
8 team placed Stephen C. in a boarding school in Phoenix for the seventh grade. Frank C.  
9 has applied to enroll Stephen C. at another BIE boarding school in Oklahoma for the 2018-  
10 2019 school year because he is concerned that the placement in Phoenix is not appropriate  
11 for Stephen C. If Stephen C. is not accepted to the BIE boarding school in Oklahoma,  
12 Frank C. believes his only option is to keep Stephen C. at his current boarding school  
13 because he also continues to have grave concerns about the education Stephen C. would  
14 receive if he returned to Havasupai Elementary School for the eighth grade.

15         61. **Plaintiff Anna D.** is a rising fifth grader at an Arizona public school. She  
16 was enrolled in Havasupai Elementary School from Fall 2013 until her mother, Elsa D., felt  
17 like she had to place her at a public school for the fourth grade in order for Anna D. to have  
18 her educational needs met. However, Elsa D. would prefer that Anna D. live and receive  
19 her education in Supai.

20         62. Anna D. has been denied access to a general-education curriculum and  
21 culturally relevant instruction at Havasupai Elementary School. She has received no formal  
22 instruction in any content area other than math and English.

23         63. Anna D. has been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
24 Havasupai Elementary School. Anna D.'s teachers have frequently left during the middle of  
25 the school year. In the first grade, Anna D.'s teacher switched twice during the school year.  
26 In the second grade, Anna D.'s teacher switched at least five times over the course of the  
27 year.

28         64. Anna D. received her third grade instruction in a combined classroom. She

1 also received instruction in the first and second grades in a combined classroom.

2 65. Anna D. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
3 extracurricular activities, and field trips. Although Anna D. has a keen interest in basketball  
4 and tribal-cultural activities, there were no opportunities for her to pursue these interests  
5 through the Havasupai Elementary School. She was never even been offered an opportunity  
6 to participate in a school-sponsored field trip. The only structured activity outside of the  
7 School that her mother, Elsa D. can recall was when Anna D. and her classmates picked up  
8 trash outside of the School for Earth Day.

9 66. Elsa D., the mother of Anna D., has observed that students in the School are  
10 routinely out of class and are not properly supervised. Given the rate of adverse childhood  
11 experiences impacting students in Havasupai, Anna D. requires a public school with a  
12 system that is responsive to complex trauma and able to deliver specialized instruction,  
13 related services, and accommodations necessary for students whose ability to access the  
14 benefits of a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

15 67. Elsa D., the mother of Anna D., has been appointed by the Havasupai Tribal  
16 Council to serve on the Council's Advisory School Board.

17 68. **Plaintiff Olaf D.** is a rising kindergartner for the 2018-2019 school year.

18 69. Elsa D., Olaf D's mother, has not received any information from the School  
19 as to when the first day of school begins or even who his teacher will be. Although  
20 instruction was scheduled to begin on August 2, 2018, upon information and belief, the  
21 School has already delayed the start date until August 6, 2018. The School is not fully  
22 staffed and does not have a principal hired for the 2018-2019 school year.

23 70. On information and belief, the school has not taken any meaningful steps to  
24 ensure Olaf D. is not subjected to the same educational deprivations his sister, Anna D.,  
25 experienced as a student at Havasupai Elementary School.

26 71. Olaf D. has already been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
27 Havasupai Elementary School. The start of his kindergarten year has already been delayed.

28 72. On information and belief, the school has not taken any steps to ensure Olaf

1 D. is not subjected to the same extra-curricular deprivations his sister, Anna D.,  
2 experienced as a student at Havasupai Elementary School.

3 73. In order to prepare him for the kindergarten, Elsa D. has been working with  
4 Olaf D. three to four evenings a week after work so he learns his colors and numbers.  
5 Given the lack of curriculum, she is concerned he will lose what he learned in Head Start  
6 and fall behind academically.

7 74. Given the experiences of her daughter, Anna D., Elsa D. is concerned about  
8 the impact other students' behaviors will have on her son. She is concerned about having to  
9 decide whether to send him to an Arizona public school given his young age. Her  
10 preference is to have Olaf D. live in Supai and have his educational needs met by the  
11 School.

12 75. **Plaintiff Durell P.** recently completed the eighth grade outside of the  
13 community following the Havasupai Elementary School's decision to place him at a  
14 boarding school as part of his Individualized Education Program (IEP). Prior to this  
15 placement by Havasupai Elementary School, Durell P. had attended Havasupai Elementary  
16 School continuously since Fall 2008, except for a 45-day period when the School  
17 compelled him to enroll in a residential placement because the School could not meet his  
18 educational needs.

19 76. Durell P. was denied access to a general-education curriculum and culturally  
20 relevant instruction when he attended the Havasupai Elementary School. Until the filing of  
21 the First Complaint in this matter, he received no formal instruction in any content area  
22 other than math and English. His lack of exposure to a full general education curriculum  
23 continues to adversely impact his learning.

24 77. Durell P. has been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
25 Havasupai Elementary School. Durell P. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a  
26 functioning library, extracurricular activities, and field trips.

27 78. Durell P. has endured multiple adverse childhood experiences, which  
28 negatively affect child development and impact the ability to carry out basic life activities

1 necessary to access education, including learning, thinking, reading, concentrating, and  
2 communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete incidents, but consists of long-  
3 term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Durell P. and his family have  
4 experienced historical trauma, including family experience with boarding schools, which  
5 has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed to present day adversity.  
6 As a young child, Plaintiff Durell P. experienced sexual abuse by a family member, who  
7 was prosecuted and is now incarcerated for another assault. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED] Durell P. was separated from his caregivers again in 2016, when he was compelled  
20 by Havasupai Elementary School personnel to attend a residential boarding school  
21 placement in Utah for 45 days. During the placement, Durell P. was subjected to repeated  
22 use of physical restraints and was unable to communicate with his family for long periods  
23 of time.

24 79. Fourteen-year-old Durell P. has experienced repeated harassment and assault  
25 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police in the community. For example, in 2015,  
26 when Durell P. was only eleven years old, BIA police pulled his hand behind his back,  
27 threw him against a wall, and frisked him. Shortly thereafter, BIA police threatened to  
28 arrest and imprison him for swearing. In 2016, Durell P. was afraid to leave his home for

1 weeks because BIA police officers threatened to file federal charges against him and  
2 imprison him.

3 80. Durell P. has also experienced repeated traumatic experiences at Havasupai  
4 Elementary School, which have made him terrified of the school grounds and school  
5 personnel. Durell P. was assaulted by a Havasupai Elementary School teacher. When  
6 Durell P. was in the second/third class, he was placed in the fifth/sixth grade for instruction  
7 in reading; the fifth/sixth grade teacher slapped him with a ruler and slammed a book on his  
8 hand. Durell P. has witnessed other students being punched, scratched, and having their  
9 hair pulled by other students. Durell P. has experienced bullying by classmates. Durell P.  
10 has also experienced traumatic classroom-based arrest and referral to the juvenile justice  
11 system by the school principal. In response to one incident, Durell P. spent over a week at  
12 the Colorado River Indian Tribes detention facility. In addition, Plaintiff Durell P. was  
13 arrested and criminally prosecuted for assault for pushing a teacher in the classroom during  
14 the school day. That incident arose when a student in the combined classroom punctured  
15 Durell P.'s skin with a sharpened pencil several times and threatened to continue to stab  
16 Durell P. if he did not push the teacher. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 [REDACTED]  
27 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 81. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 82. [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 83. As a result of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
20 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the impact of  
21 adversity and complex trauma on Durell P.'s ability to learn, read, think, concentrate,  
22 and/or communicate, Durell P. has been deprived of meaningful access to the benefits of a  
23 public education. Durell P.'s challenges with emotional self-regulation, panic and anxiety,  
24 reactive behavior, and withdrawal and isolating behavior have resulted in his repeated  
25 physical exclusion from school. Durell P. has missed years of instruction time because he  
26 was repeatedly sent home from school early, suspended, expelled, and referred to the  
27 juvenile justice system. Although he experienced some academic gains after he resumed  
28 tutoring away from school grounds, he remained excluded from many of the benefits of

1 public education because he could not access the physical environment of the School as a  
2 result of complex trauma.

3 84. Plaintiff Durell P. is a student identified with Oppositional Defiant Disorder,  
4 ADHD, and significant mental health needs and is eligible to receive special education  
5 services. In addition to needing special education services, Durell P. requires positive  
6 behavior support and counseling to address his behaviors and mental health needs.

7 85. As a direct result of Defendants' failure to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
8 School has a system in place to deliver special education, Durell P. has not been provided  
9 with the specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for him to  
10 access the benefits of a public education. Plaintiff Durell P. has also been deprived of  
11 education as a result of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
12 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for students whose ability to  
13 access the benefits of a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex  
14 trauma.

15 86. Because Havasupai Elementary School lacked the capacity to meet Durell  
16 P.'s behavioral and mental health needs, Durell P. was repeatedly suspended and subjected  
17 to punitive school discipline for behavior that was a manifestation of his disability and was  
18 a result of the School's failure to deliver required special education and related services.  
19 From third grade, Plaintiff Durell P. was suspended by the Havasupai Elementary School  
20 so often that he attended School only approximately 20% of the time. On several occasions,  
21 including a four-month period in 2012 and a six-month period in 2013, the School excluded  
22 Durell P. from school altogether. The School did not provide Durell P. with any  
23 educational or related services during his disciplinary exclusions.

24 87. Plaintiff Durell P. has been subject to classroom-based arrest and prosecution  
25 by law enforcement in response to classroom behavior that was a manifestation of his  
26 disability and was a result of the School's failure to deliver required special education and  
27 related services. For example, Plaintiff Durell P. was arrested and criminally prosecuted for  
28 assault for pushing a teacher in the classroom during the school day.



1           88. Plaintiff Durell P. was on a homebound or restricted-hours schedule for over  
2 four years. He did not attend school full-time at Havasupai Elementary School after third  
3 grade because the School did not meet his behavioral and mental health needs

4           89. Havasupai Elementary School has also compelled Durell P.'s family to  
5 choose between receiving the special education services to which they are entitled and  
6 staying in their community. In spring 2016, Billie P., the mother of Plaintiff Durell P., was  
7 told that Durell P. would not be permitted to return to Havasupai Elementary School unless  
8 Billie P. consented to placing Durell P. in a residential placement in Utah for 45 days in the  
9 spring and summer of 2016. Having been told that she had no other choice, Billie P.  
10 submitted, even though she strongly desired for Durell P. to remain with his family in his  
11 community. During the placement, Durell P. was subjected to repeated use of physical  
12 restraints and was unable to communicate with his family for long periods of time. Yet,  
13 after Durell P. completed his 45-day residential placement, Defendants did not live up to  
14 their end of the bargain. Havasupai Elementary School again informed Billie P. that the  
15 School lacked the capacity to meet Durell P.'s needs, and that the family must choose  
16 between a residential placement outside of the canyon or a homebound schedule during  
17 which Durell P. would receive only about five hours of instruction per week.

18           90. During the 2016-2017 school year, Durell P. continued to be enrolled at  
19 Havasupai Elementary School and was restricted to a maximum of about six hours of  
20 instruction per week. Although he is also entitled to at least two hours of counseling per  
21 week, he did not receive those services until a counselor was hired and began providing  
22 him with counseling services in January 2017. The School had suggested decreasing his  
23 counseling hours in the future.

24           91. During the 2017-2018 school year, Durell P. continued to be enrolled at  
25 Havasupai Elementary School and he continued to receive restricted hours of instruction  
26 for much of the school year. Over the course of the year his hours at the school site were  
27 increased; however, he regularly left his classroom, wandering around or serving students  
28 lunch. Although he continued to require counseling services, the school counselor died in

1 December 2017 and was not promptly replaced. Durell P. was not provided with the  
2 counseling services he required.

3 92. Durell P. was sexually assaulted multiple times by another student at the  
4 School during the Spring 2018 semester. The School did not have a counselor available for  
5 Durell P. and School staff dismissed the behavior as children “playing.” In addition,  
6 although School staff, including then Principal, Jeff Williamson, knew about these  
7 incidents, Billie P. was not informed. Because Durell P. was not provided with counseling,  
8 or any other supports available to him to address the trauma, Durell P. began fighting with  
9 other students to protect himself, and his sister, Taylor P., while they attended School. In  
10 response, the School placed Durrell P. at a private boarding school in Phoenix. Durell P.  
11 has told his mother, Billie P. that he has been beat up by other students and forcibly  
12 restrained at his new school.

13 93. **Plaintiff Taylor P.** is a rising second grader and has been enrolled in  
14 Havasupai Elementary School since Fall 2016.

15 94. Taylor P. has been denied access to a general-education curriculum and  
16 culturally relevant instruction at Havasupai Elementary School. She has received no formal  
17 instruction in any content area other than math and English.

18 95. Taylor P. has been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
19 Havasupai Elementary School. Taylor P.’s kindergarten class was combined with the first-  
20 grade class since the beginning of the school year. In addition, her teacher will not be  
21 returning to teach at Havasupai Elementary School for the upcoming school year.

22 96. Taylor P. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
23 extracurricular activities, and has never gone on a field trip.

24 97. Seven-year-old Taylor P. has already endured multiple adverse childhood  
25 experiences, which negatively affect child development and impact the ability to carry out  
26 basic life activities necessary to access education, including learning, thinking, reading,  
27 concentrating, and communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete incidents, but  
28 consists of long-term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Taylor P. and her

1 family have experienced historical trauma, including family experience with boarding  
2 schools, which has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed to  
3 present day adversity. Taylor P. has experienced sexual and physical assault on school  
4 grounds. Taylor P. was pushed against a wall and choked by another student while her  
5 kindergarten teacher was not watching. In her first semester at the School, Taylor P. was  
6 sexually assaulted and penetrated by another student on the playground. In neither situation  
7 was Taylor P.'s mother, Billie P., informed by the School of what had happened. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]

19 98. Although she will be a second grader, Taylor P. recently began sucking on a  
20 bottle and carrying a "rag doll" around like a baby, according to Billie P. Billie P. is  
21 concerned that this regression is a result of the experiences she had as a kindergartner and  
22 her anxiety about returning to the School.

23 99. [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 [REDACTED]  
27 [REDACTED]  
28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]

4 100. As a result of Defendants’ failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
5 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the impact of  
6 adversity and complex trauma on Taylor P.’s ability to learn, read, think, concentrate,  
7 and/or communicate, Taylor P. has been deprived of meaningful access to the benefits of a  
8 public education.

9 101. Given the rate of adverse childhood experiences impacting students in  
10 Havasupai, Taylor P. requires a public school with a system that is responsive to complex  
11 trauma and able to deliver specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations  
12 necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of a public education is affected  
13 by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

14 102. **Plaintiff Freddy P.** is a rising kindergarten student at Havasupai Elementary  
15 School.

16 103. Although School was scheduled to begin on August 2, 2018, upon  
17 information and belief, School has already delayed the start date until August 6, 2018.  
18 School is not fully staffed and does not have a principal hired for the 2018-2019 school  
19 year.

20 104. On information and belief, the school has not taken any meaningful steps to  
21 ensure Freddy P. is not subjected to the same educational deprivations his siblings, Durell  
22 P. and Taylor P., have experienced as students at Havasupai Elementary School.

23 105. Freddie P. has already been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages  
24 at Havasupai Elementary School. The start of his kindergarten year has already been  
25 delayed.

26 106. On information and belief, the school has not taken any steps to ensure  
27 Freddy P. is not subjected to the same extra-curricular deprivations his siblings, Durell P.  
28 and Taylor P., have experienced as students at Havasupai Elementary School.

1 107. Freddy P. was identified as a child with a disability when he was enrolled in  
2 the Head Start program, and he received special education services for speech.

3 108. Freddy P. struggles with completing activities and frequently will say “I can’t  
4 do it” when presented with a task that should be within the abilities of a child of his age.  
5 For example, when asked to name a word that starts with “A,” he could not name one.  
6 When his mother, Billie P., asked him to draw an acorn, he said he could not. When she  
7 asked him to draw his brother, Durrell P., he drew a stick figure with the letter “x” in place  
8 of his eyes, and said “I made him dead because he’s mean to me.”

9 109. Freddy P. and his family have experienced historical trauma, including  
10 family experience with boarding schools, which has adversely impacted the Havasupai  
11 community and contributed to present day adversity. As a consequence of the unaddressed  
12 childhood adversity that he has experienced, Freddy P. experiences significant fear and  
13 anxiety that impacts his ability to concentrate and access education.

14 110. Freddy P. sometimes uses aggressive language, and his mother, Billie P. is  
15 concerned that the teacher will not treat him well as a result.

16 111. Given the experiences of Durrell P. and Taylor P., Billie P. is concerned that  
17 Freddy P. will be in a combined classroom with older students and that he may be  
18 physically or sexually assaulted by the older students.

19 112. As a result of Defendants’ failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
20 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the impact of  
21 adversity and complex trauma on Freddy P.’s ability to learn, read, think, concentrate,  
22 and/or communicate, Freddy P. will be deprived of meaningful access to the benefits of a  
23 public education.

24 113. Given the rate of adverse childhood experiences impacting students in  
25 Havasupai, Freddy P. requires a public school with a system that is responsive to complex  
26 trauma and able to deliver specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations  
27 necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of a public education is affected  
28 by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

1           114. **Plaintiff Levi R.** is repeating the ninth grade despite completing the eighth  
2 grade at an Arizona public school. Levi R. attended Havasupai Elementary School from  
3 Fall 2007, when he was in kindergarten, through Fall 2016, the beginning of the eighth  
4 grade, except for a two-month period in 2014 when he was receiving online education  
5 services because the Havasupai Elementary School could not meet his educational needs.

6           115. Levi R. was denied access to a general-education curriculum and culturally  
7 relevant instruction when he attended the Havasupai Elementary School. He has received  
8 no formal instruction in any content area other than math and English.

9           116. Levi R. has been subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
10 Havasupai Elementary School.

11           117. Levi R. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
12 extracurricular activities, and field trips.

13           118. Levi R. has endured multiple adverse childhood experiences, which  
14 negatively affect child development and impact the ability to carry out basic life activities  
15 necessary to access education, including learning, thinking, reading, concentrating, and  
16 communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete incidents, but consists of long-  
17 term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Levi R. and his family have  
18 experienced historical trauma, including family experience with boarding schools, which  
19 has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed to present day adversity.  
20 Levi R. has experienced physical assault on school grounds. When Levi R. was ten years  
21 old and in fifth grade, Levi R. was forcibly restrained. A teacher sat and lay on Levi R.  
22 while he repeatedly cried out and yelled, "I can't breathe. Get off of me, you're hurting  
23 me."<sup>3</sup> Levi was then handcuffed by BIA police in the classroom in front of his peers and  
24 marched across town in handcuffs. [REDACTED]

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>3</sup> Although the mother of Levi R., Laila R., filed a Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect (SCAN)  
27 report in response to the incident, BIE officials have failed to comply with internal agency  
28 procedures in investigating and responding to the SCAN report. *See* BIE, Suspected Child  
Abuse/Neglect (SCAN) & Employee Incident Reporting Protocol (rev. 2009),  
<http://www.rrds.bie.edu/Reporting%20Protocol.pdf>.

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1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 121. As a result of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
4 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the impact of  
5 adversity and complex trauma on Levi R.'s ability to learn, read, think, concentrate, and/or  
6 communicate, Levi R. has been deprived of meaningful access to the benefits of a public  
7 education. Levi R.'s challenges with avoidance, isolation, and concentration, as well as  
8 with self-regulation and behavior as documented by the School, have resulted in his  
9 repeated exclusion from the classroom. Levi R. has missed a significant amount of  
10 instruction time because he has been repeatedly sent home from school early, suspended,  
11 and expelled. Levi R. has also struggled academically because of his experiences at the  
12 School. Although Levi R. was far behind in all academic areas, he has worked hard to  
13 overcome his past experiences and to improve his academic performance since enrolling in  
14 Arizona public schools. However, he continues to be impacted by the School's failure to  
15 address his exposure to adversity and complex trauma and despite his considerable efforts  
16 he will have to repeat his first year of high school.

17 122. Levi R. is a student identified with ADHD and a specific learning disability  
18 and is eligible to receive special education services. In addition to needing special  
19 education services, Levi R. requires positive behavior support and counseling services to  
20 address his behaviors and mental health needs.

21 123. As a direct result of Defendants' failure to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
22 School has a system in place to deliver special education, Levi R. was not provided with  
23 the specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for him to  
24 access the benefits of a public education. Levi R. was also deprived of education as a result  
25 of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver specialized instruction, related  
26 services, and accommodations necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of  
27 a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

28 124. Laila R., the mother of Plaintiff Levi R., was told repeatedly that there was



1 not sufficient staff to hold an IEP meeting.

2 125. Because Havasupai Elementary School lacked the capacity to meet Levi R.'s  
3 behavioral and mental health needs, Levi R. was repeatedly suspended and subjected to  
4 punitive school discipline for behavior that was a manifestation of his disability and was a  
5 result of the School's failure to deliver required special education and related services. The  
6 School repeatedly called Laila R. to come and pick up Levi R. in the middle of the school  
7 day as a means of addressing his behaviors. The School expelled Levi R. due to behavior  
8 that was a manifestation of his disability in August 2013. During this incident, Levi R. was  
9 forcibly restrained when a teacher sat and lay on Levi R. while he repeatedly cried out and  
10 yelled, "I can't breathe. Get off of me, you're hurting me."

11 126. Plaintiff Levi R. was placed on a restricted-hours schedule for three years  
12 following the expulsion. From September 2013 to January 2014, he was permitted to attend  
13 school only from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. And, because  
14 Levi R. complied with those excessive scheduling restrictions, the Havasupai Elementary  
15 School informed his mother that Levi R. had been unenrolled for lack of attendance. From  
16 January 2014 through the remainder of the school year, Levi R. was permitted to attend  
17 school for only a half day on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This pattern continued for  
18 years. The Havasupai Elementary School later unilaterally placed Levi R. on a shortened  
19 school-day schedule in which he was permitted to attend school for only half of the school  
20 day in October 2014 and again in December 2015. Although he is also entitled to  
21 counseling under his IEP, he received no counseling because the Havasupai Elementary  
22 School had not hired a counselor.

23 127. Despite years of advocacy by his mother, Laila R., Levi R. is behind in many  
24 academic areas, particularly in the area of reading comprehension. For example, in the fifth  
25 grade, Levi R. tested at a second-grade reading level.

26 128. In September 2016, Laila R. was compelled to move her family from  
27 Havasupai in part to place both her sons Levi R. and Leo R. at a public school where their  
28 needs would be met, despite the fact that Levi R. was then eligible to attend Havasupai



1 134. [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]

8 135. Leo R. is currently enrolled in an Arizona public high school. Because Leo R.  
9 was denied access to basic education at Havasupai Elementary School, in his first year in  
10 public high school, in ninth grade, he struggled academically, failing multiple classes and  
11 passing others with D's. As a result, Leo R. was required to take credit recovery classes in  
12 order to advance to the tenth grade. However, Leo R. continued to struggle during his tenth  
13 grade year. Leo R. failed several classes this year, and has been retained in the tenth grade  
14 for the 2017-2018 school year. Leo R.'s mother is concerned that Leo R. will not continue  
15 with education because he is being retained and feels like quitting school.

16 136. Given the rate of adverse childhood experiences impacting students in  
17 Havasupai, Leo R. required a public elementary school with a system that is responsive to  
18 complex trauma and able to deliver specialized instruction, related services, and  
19 accommodations necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of a public  
20 education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

21 137. **Plaintiff Jenny A.** is a rising eleventh grader. She recently completed the  
22 tenth grade at a BIE boarding school in Oklahoma. She attended Havasupai Elementary  
23 School from kindergarten in Fall 2006 through the sixth grade in Spring 2014.

24 138. Jenny A. was denied access to a general-education curriculum and culturally  
25 relevant instruction when she attended Havasupai Elementary School. She received no  
26 formal instruction in any content area other than math and English.

27 139. Jenny A. was subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at Havasupai  
28 Elementary School.

1           140. Jenny A. was denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
2 extracurricular activities, and field trips.

3           141. Jenny A. has endured multiple adverse childhood experiences, which  
4 negatively affect child development and impact the ability to carry out basic life activities  
5 necessary to access education, including learning, thinking, reading, concentrating, and  
6 communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete incidents, but consists of long-  
7 term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Jenny A. and her family have  
8 experienced historical trauma, including family experience with boarding schools, which  
9 has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed to present day adversity.  
10 When Jenny A. attended Havasupai Elementary School, she was subjected to significant  
11 bullying by other students. She was also afraid of running into intoxicated adults in the  
12 community and on her way to school. She frequently witnessed intoxicated adults engaging  
13 in frightening behaviors such as verbal arguments or physical altercations. Jenny A. has  
14 experienced significant family disruption necessitated by her parents' commitment to  
15 obtain adequate education for her, as well as by her father's employment. As a condition of  
16 his employment as a wildlife ranger, Jenny A.'s father works both in and out of the canyon.  
17 When he is deployed out of the canyon, he sleeps in a trailer. He is unable to see the  
18 children every day, even when the children are home. It is difficult for Jenny A.'s parents  
19 to be involved in her education now that she is in boarding school. All members of the  
20 family grieve that they are not able to live together as a family.

21           142. As a consequence of the unaddressed childhood adversity that she has  
22 experienced, Jenny A. has significant mental health needs which impact her ability to learn,  
23 read, think, concentrate, and/or communicate. As a result of Defendants' failure to establish  
24 a system to deliver specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary  
25 to address the impact of adversity and complex trauma on Jenny A.'s ability to learn, read,  
26 think, concentrate, and/or communicate, Jenny A.'s has been deprived of meaningful  
27 access to the benefits of a public education.

28           143. Plaintiff Jenny A. is a student identified with significant mental health needs

1 and is eligible to receive special education services as a student with an emotional  
2 disturbance (“ED”). In addition to needing special education services, Jenny A. requires  
3 positive behavior support and counseling to address her behaviors and mental health needs.

4 144. As a direct result of Defendants’ failure to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
5 School has a system in place to deliver special education, Jenny A. has not been provided  
6 with the specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for her to  
7 access the benefits of a public education. Plaintiff Jenny A. has also been deprived of  
8 education as a result of Defendants’ failure to establish a system to deliver specialized  
9 instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for students whose ability to  
10 access the benefits of a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex  
11 trauma.

12 145. Because Havasupai Elementary School lacked the capacity to meet Jenny  
13 A.’s behavioral and mental health needs, Jenny A. was repeatedly suspended and subjected  
14 to punitive school discipline for behavior that was a manifestation of her disability and was  
15 a result of the School’s failure to deliver required special education and related services.  
16 When Jenny A. attended Havasupai Elementary School, she was sent home early most  
17 days, without homework or remedial work to make up for lost instructional time.

18 146. Jasmine A., Jenny A.’s mother, was compelled to send Jenny A. away from  
19 her family and community to a boarding school where her educational needs would be met,  
20 even though Jenny A. was eligible to attend school in her community at Havasupai  
21 Elementary School.

22 147. **Plaintiff Jeremy A.** is a rising ninth grader. He recently completed the eighth  
23 grade at a BIE boarding school in Oklahoma. He attended Havasupai Elementary School  
24 from kindergarten in Fall 2009 through the fifth grade in Spring 2015.

25 148. Jeremy A. was denied access to a general-education curriculum and culturally  
26 relevant instruction when he attended Havasupai Elementary School. He received no  
27 formal instruction in any content area other than math and English.

28 149. Jeremy A. was subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at

1 Havasupai Elementary School.

2 150. Jeremy A. was denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
3 extracurricular activities, and field trips.

4 151. Given the rate of adverse childhood experiences impacting students in  
5 Havasupai, Jeremy A. required a public elementary school with a system that is responsive  
6 to complex trauma and able to deliver specialized instruction, related services, and  
7 accommodations necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of a public  
8 education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

9 152. Jasmine A., Jeremy A.'s mother, was compelled to send Jeremy A. away  
10 from his family and community to a boarding school where his educational needs would be  
11 met, even though Jeremy A. was eligible and remains eligible to attend school in his  
12 community at Havasupai Elementary School.

13 153. **Plaintiff Jordan A.** is a rising sixth grader. He recently completed the fifth  
14 grade at a BIE boarding school in Oklahoma. He attended Havasupai Elementary School  
15 from kindergarten in Fall 2012 through the third grade in Spring 2016.

16 154. Jordan A. was denied access to a general-education curriculum and culturally  
17 relevant instruction when he attended Havasupai Elementary School. He received no  
18 formal instruction in any content area other than math and English.

19 155. Jordan A. was subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at  
20 Havasupai Elementary School.

21 156. Jordan A. was denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning library,  
22 extracurricular activities, and field trips.

23 157. Jordan A. has endured multiple adverse childhood experiences, which  
24 negatively affect child development and impact the ability to carry out basic life activities  
25 necessary to access education, including learning, thinking, reading, concentrating, and  
26 communicating. This adversity is not limited to discrete incidents, but consists of long-  
27 term, repeated, ongoing, and overlapping stressors. Jordan A. and his family have  
28 experienced historical trauma, including family experience with boarding schools, which

1 has adversely impacted the Havasupai community and contributed to present day adversity.  
2 Jordan A. was exposed to bullying when he attended Havasupai Elementary School. He  
3 was afraid of running into intoxicated adults in the community and on his way to school.  
4 He frequently witnessed intoxicated adults engaging in frightening behaviors such as verbal  
5 arguments or physical altercations. Jordan A. has experienced significant family disruption  
6 necessitated by his parents' commitment to obtain adequate education for him, as well as  
7 by his father's employment. As a condition of his employment as a wildlife ranger, Jordan  
8 A.'s father works both in and out of the canyon. When he is deployed out of the canyon, he  
9 sleeps in a trailer. He is unable to see the children every day, even when the children are  
10 home. It is difficult for Jordan A.'s parents to be involved in his education now that he is in  
11 boarding school. All members of the family grieve that they are not able to live together as  
12 a family.

13 158. As a consequence of the unaddressed childhood adversity that he has  
14 experienced, Jordan A. has difficulty learning, reading thinking, concentrating, and/or  
15 communicating. As a result of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver  
16 specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary to address the  
17 impact of adversity and complex trauma on Jordan A.'s ability to learn, read, think,  
18 concentrate, and/or communicate, Jordan A.'s has been deprived of meaningful access to  
19 the benefits of a public education.

20 159. Plaintiff Jordan A. is a student identified with a specific learning disability  
21 ("SLD"), and is eligible to receive special education services. In addition to needing special  
22 education services, Jordan A. requires additional supports to address his SLD.

23 160. As a direct result of Defendants' failure to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
24 School has a system in place to deliver special education, Jordan A. has not been provided  
25 with the specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for him to  
26 access the benefits of a public education. Jordan A. was also deprived of education as a  
27 result of Defendants' failure to establish a system to deliver specialized instruction, related  
28 services, and accommodations necessary for students whose ability to access the benefits of

1 a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and complex trauma.

2 161. Jasmine A., Jordan A.'s mother, was compelled to send Jordan A. away from  
3 his family and community to a boarding school where his educational needs would be met,  
4 even though Jordan A. was eligible and remains eligible to attend school in his community  
5 at Havasupai Elementary School.

6 162. **Plaintiff Moana L.** is a rising first grader. She attended kindergarten at the  
7 Havasupai Elementary School for the 2017-2018 school year.

8 163. Moana L. has been denied access to a general-education curriculum and  
9 culturally relevant instruction at Havasupai Elementary School. She received no formal  
10 instruction in any content area other than math and English.

11 164. Moana L. is subject to the effects of chronic staffing shortages at Havasupai  
12 Elementary School.

13 165. Moana L. has been denied access to adequate textbooks, a functioning  
14 library, extracurricular activities, and field trips.

15 166. Despite completing kindergarten, Moana L. is unable to read. She can  
16 identify only three letters of the alphabet, she does not know even simple words, and she  
17 cannot write her own name.

18 167. Moana L. requires eyeglasses because of a visual impairment and is deaf in  
19 one ear. She has never been identified by Havasupai Elementary School as a child with a  
20 disability or even evaluated for special education services for either impairment.

21 168. During her kindergarten year at Havasupai Elementary School, Moana L. was  
22 bullied and verbally taunted extensively by other students at school. Moana L. cries at  
23 night as a result of the bullying and experiences nightmares so severe that they lead her to  
24 kick her grandmother, Monica L., in her sleep. Moana L. has cried out during these  
25 nightmares "they're coming, they're coming, they're going to hit me." Monica L. has to  
26 wake Moana L. to end the nightmares.

27 169. While volunteering at the School during the 2017-2018 school year, Monica  
28 L. observed students cursing, standing on chairs, running around, leaving the classroom,



1 and throwing rocks at each other and teachers on the playground. She observed one student  
2 pushing and hitting other children waiting in the lunch line.

3 170. Given her own traumatic experiences and the overall rate of adverse  
4 childhood experiences impacting students in Havasupai, Moana L. requires a public  
5 elementary school with a system that is responsive to complex trauma and able to deliver  
6 specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations necessary for students whose  
7 ability to access the benefits of a public education is affected by exposure to adversity and  
8 complex trauma.

9 **IV. ADDITIONAL FACTS COMMON TO ALL STUDENT PLAINTIFFS**

10 **A. Failure To Provide Required Instruction**

11 171. Defendants do not provide instruction in all subjects or content areas, as  
12 required by federal regulations. Nor do Defendants provide required culturally relevant  
13 instruction.

14 172. No comprehensive program of multicultural and multilingual education—  
15 including the creation and use of culturally appropriate instructional materials,  
16 methodologies, and assessments—exists at the School. Defendants have not engaged in  
17 collaboration or consultation with Havasupai families, community members, or tribal  
18 officials to enact such culturally relevant language programs.

19 **B. Failure To Adequately Staff the School**

20 173. Defendants have consistently failed to ensure that Havasupai Elementary  
21 School is adequately staffed such that it can effectively deliver basic education. Teacher  
22 vacancies have been covered by adults who lack teaching credentials—including the school  
23 janitor and the school secretary—by temporary BIE instructors who rotate through the  
24 position on two-week details, and by combining students from multiple grade levels into a  
25 single classroom. Instead of certified teachers or trained aides, older children at the School  
26 sometimes help “teach” in these classrooms.

27 174. For example, the principal position has been vacant at the beginning of every  
28 school year since at least Fall 2014. The 2016-2017 school year also began with the

1 counselor and first-grade teacher positions vacant.

2 175. Insufficient staffing has repeatedly caused the School to shut down  
3 altogether. On multiple occasions, the School has been so severely understaffed that it has  
4 been unable to operate. For instance, although the 2015-2016 academic year was scheduled  
5 to begin on August 25, 2015, students did not begin attending school until September 15  
6 due to a severe staffing shortage. For the remainder of the school year, most classrooms  
7 were covered by temporary BIE instructors who rotated through on two-week details.

8 176. Around February 2017, a teacher who taught the middle-school grades was  
9 terminated by the BIE, while his students were subject to a series of temporary  
10 replacements in the middle of the school year.

11 177. Many teacher terminations and other departures followed during the 2017-  
12 2018 school year. Two general-education teachers left the school in November 2017 and  
13 February 2018, the full-time counselor passed away in December 2017, and the special-  
14 education aide left the school in December 2017 and was temporarily replaced by the cook,  
15 who lacked any classroom or special-education experience and who left the school for  
16 medical reasons on March 7, 2018. The vacated “cook” position was filled by the person  
17 who had previously served as the janitor, and he had no food-handling license or  
18 experience. At one point, a single teacher was assigned to cover all students in grades four  
19 through eight. This teacher had to travel back and forth between two different physical  
20 classrooms during the school day, leaving students unsupervised in the other room.

21 178. These staffing shortfalls left classrooms as chaotic and unpredictable  
22 environments in which learning could not take place. Students were regularly permitted to  
23 leave their classrooms and wander the school grounds unsupervised. The lack of  
24 supervision also permitted students to engage in unsafe behaviors, including bullying and  
25 physical and sexual assault, without appropriate intervention or response from the school.  
26 To take just one example, in February and March 2018, Plaintiff Durrell P. was sexually  
27 assaulted numerous times by other students on school grounds during the school day,  
28 causing him extreme emotional distress. The school failed to timely notify his mother,

1 Billie P., of these incidents and took no action to provide support to Durrell P. or prevent  
2 these incidents from recurring in the future.

3 179. In addition, for years, Havasupai Elementary School has often closed after  
4 lunch on specified Fridays, depriving students of more than a half-day of instruction. On  
5 these days, the School permits teachers and staff to leave Havasu Canyon early for the  
6 weekend. Students are sent home because the School has insufficient numbers of teachers  
7 to operate. The learning time lost as a result of these closures alone adds up to more than  
8 two weeks of instruction per year.

9 180. The School is also subject to repeated closures or early dismissals with little  
10 or no notice to families. During most of November 2016, school was only in session for  
11 half-days or was canceled altogether. And on May 8, 2017, families received notice that  
12 school would end about two weeks early and students would be released early every day  
13 for the remaining month of the school year.

14 181. The BIE has exacerbated its failure to hire an adequate number of teachers in  
15 the first instance by creating conditions for high staff turnover.

16 182. Even when Havasupai Elementary School is considered “fully staffed,”  
17 multiple grade levels are combined into a single classroom. However, teachers are not  
18 provided the training or support necessary to serve such combined classrooms.

19 183. The 2018-2019 school year reportedly was scheduled to begin on August 2,  
20 2018, but that day has already been pushed back to August 6, 2018. The School has not  
21 hired a permanent Principal. It is unclear how many teachers the School will have to begin  
22 the 2018-2019 school year.

23 **C. Lack of Basic Learning Materials and Activities**

24 184. Defendants have failed to meet the most basic of the federal regulations to  
25 ensure that Havasupai students have access to the instructional materials and activities that  
26 are both necessary for learning and required by BIE regulation.

27 185. Havasupai Elementary School does not have sufficient numbers of textbooks,  
28 let alone a community-based review committee, to ensure that textbooks and other

1 instructional materials are appropriate.

2 186. Sufficient learning resources and technology are not available at the  
3 Havasupai Elementary School to support student education, such as the presence of a  
4 functioning school library or media center. A dedicated librarian has not been assigned to  
5 the Havasupai Elementary School.

6 187. Similarly, Havasupai students have been denied access to an “integral part of  
7 the overall education program” through Defendants’ failure to provide access to any  
8 extracurricular activities. 25 C.F.R. § 36.43. There are no sports teams, student clubs, or  
9 art, music, or dance groups.

10 **D. Exclusion of the Community from School Decisionmaking**

11 188. Defendants have repeatedly denied Havasupai community members the  
12 requisite opportunities to participate in important areas of school decisionmaking, including  
13 the development of culturally relevant curricula, the review of textbooks and instructional  
14 materials, and the evaluation of educational needs and goals.

15 189. Defendants have not adequately informed parents and community members  
16 of school achievement results or provided access to a written handbook of current school  
17 policies. Defendants do not conduct outreach sufficient to secure family or community  
18 involvement in the schools. The Havasupai Elementary School does not hold culturally  
19 relevant events or community engagement activities, such as plays, dances, or sporting  
20 events. Parents are rarely invited onto school grounds except to pick up a student who has  
21 been suspended or otherwise subject to exclusionary discipline.

22 190. Defendants have not only failed to engage the Havasupai community in  
23 school decision making. They have actively imposed barriers to such participation and  
24 discouraged advocacy to improve the School and secure student rights by engaging in a  
25 pattern of retaliation against individuals who have advocated to improve the education for  
26 Havasupai students.

27 191. The Havasupai Advisory School Board<sup>4</sup> is appointed by the Havasupai Tribal

28 <sup>4</sup> Because the School is administered and operated by the BIE, the Advisory School Board

1 Council and has played an important advisory role in overseeing the activities of the  
2 Havasupai Elementary School and actively seeking to improve the education provided to  
3 Havasupai students. But Defendants have effectively disbanded the Advisory School Board  
4 by demanding that all members obtain burdensome and retaliatory FBI background checks  
5 before the Board may meet, even though it does not meet at the School when children are  
6 present. Advisory School Board members are prohibited from entering school grounds and  
7 otherwise participating in the work of the Advisory School Board until the background  
8 checks, which have taken many months to process, have cleared. No other community  
9 member is prohibited from entering school grounds absent a background check. The  
10 Advisory School Board has only begun meeting regularly in 2018 although Defendants still  
11 have not completed a background check for at least one member

12 192. In addition, community leaders who advocated on behalf of families have  
13 been barred from school grounds and prohibited from participating in Individualized  
14 Education Program (“IEP”) meetings.

15 **V. ADDITIONAL FACTS COMMON TO STUDENT PLAINTIFFS IMPACTED**  
16 **BY CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY**

17 193. As a result of centuries of U.S. government policies that have oppressed and  
18 discriminated against Native communities, Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood  
19 Adversity—like many Havasupai youth and Native youth across the nation—are exposed  
20 to childhood adversity that, absent appropriate intervention and support, has denied them  
21 the full opportunity to learn and receive the benefits of a public education.

22 **A. Student Plaintiffs’ Exposure to Childhood Adversity and Trauma**

23 194. As members of the Havasupai tribe, Student Plaintiffs Impacted by  
24 Childhood Adversity and their families bear the burden of generations of historical trauma  
25 stemming from a legacy of chronic discrimination—forced relocations, loss of homes,  
26 families, and culture. In particular, the historical and widespread consignment of Native  
27

28 lacks authority to establish policies or make binding decisions for the School.

1 American children to boarding schools constituted a form of forcible assimilation that was  
2 designed to stamp out a child's tribal affiliations and cultural identity at an early age.

3 195. Native children are disproportionately exposed to the chronic effects of  
4 unaddressed and unresolved historical trauma and adversity in their communities.  
5 Havasupai children are exposed to significant childhood adversity and trauma in their  
6 community. For example: 1) a disproportionate rate of Havasupai children live in poverty;  
7 2) over 42% of all households with children in Supai are led by single mothers; 3) alcohol  
8 abuse rates are higher for Native youth than for other racial groups; and 4) Native children  
9 are more likely to experience violent crimes, have an incarcerated parent, and be subject to  
10 disciplinary exclusion, including involvement in the juvenile justice system.

11 196. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity have been exposed to  
12 multiple adverse childhood experiences, including, but not limited to, involvement in the  
13 juvenile justice and child welfare systems; family disruption, including separation from  
14 caregivers due to boarding school placements; historical trauma, including parent  
15 experience with boarding schools; physical and sexual violence, including exposure to  
16 restraints in the school setting; alcohol and substance abuse in the community; denial of  
17 access to education; and poverty. *See* Section III, *supra*.

18 **B. The Impact of Childhood Adversity and Trauma on Child Development**  
19 **and the Ability To Learn**

20 197. Complex trauma stems from an individual child's exposure to multiple  
21 persistent sources of violence, loss, and other adverse childhood experiences ("ACEs"), and  
22 describes children's exposure to these events and the impact of this exposure.<sup>5</sup> Unaddressed  
23 exposure to trauma can impair a child's ability to learn. The cumulative effect of trauma  
24 affects the core processing abilities of the brain in areas critical to learning, such as  
25 thinking, reading, concentrating, communicating, and regulating emotions.

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26 <sup>5</sup> The terms "trauma" and "complex trauma" are often used interchangeably in this  
27 complaint. Although a child can be profoundly affected by one traumatic experience,  
28 Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity have all experienced complex trauma,  
which is the subject of most of the academic literature cited.

1 198. Exposure to trauma can lead to palpable, physiological harm to a young  
2 person’s developing brain. Trauma is associated with mental health conditions such as  
3 somatoform disorders, major depression, schizophrenia, and substance abuse and  
4 dependence. In addition, exposure to traumatic stressors can cause developmental  
5 disruption and consequent educational loss for children, even if they do not meet the  
6 threshold for a diagnosable mental health disorder.

7 199. Trauma impairs a child’s ability to learn when the resultant changes in the  
8 brain induce behaviors that reflect an inability to emotionally self-regulate—including  
9 aggression, disproportionate reactivity, impulsivity, distractibility, or withdrawal and  
10 avoidance. These trauma-induced behaviors disrupt the learning environment and  
11 frequently lead to exclusionary school-discipline measures or absence from school.

12 200. Unaddressed trauma affects a student’s ability to participate and succeed in  
13 school. Children exposed to violence demonstrate significantly lower reading ability and  
14 grade-point averages, increased absences from school, and overall lower rates of high  
15 school graduation. Children exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (“ACEs”)<sup>6</sup> are  
16 subject to an escalating array of detrimental educational impacts. Exposure to two or more  
17 such traumas, for example, makes a student 2.67 times more likely to repeat a grade or  
18 become disengaged with school.<sup>7</sup> Exposure to three or more traumas makes a student  
19 4 times more likely to experience academic failure, and 5 times more likely to have serious  
20 attendance problems.<sup>8</sup> Students who have witnessed violence, in particular, meet state

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21 <sup>6</sup> ACEs are “inherently disruptive experiences in childhood that produce significant and  
22 potentially damaging level[s] of stress and associated physical changes.” Christopher  
23 Blodgett, *Adopting ACES Screening and Assessment in Child Servicing Systems 1* (working  
24 paper, July 2012), [https://del-public-files.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Complex-Trauma-  
25 Research-ACE-Screening-and-Assessment-in-Child-Servicing-Systems-7-12-final.pdf](https://del-public-files.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Complex-Trauma-Research-ACE-Screening-and-Assessment-in-Child-Servicing-Systems-7-12-final.pdf).

26 <sup>7</sup> Christina D. Bethel et al., *Adverse Childhood Experiences: Assessing the Impact on  
27 Health and School Engagement and the Mitigating Role of Resilience*, 33:12 *Health Affairs*  
28 2106, 2111 (2014).

<sup>8</sup> Christopher Blodgett, *No School Alone: How Community Risks and Assets Contribute to  
School and Youth Success, Report to the WA State Office of Financial Management in  
response to Substitute House Bill 2739 at 25* (March 2015),  
[http://www.healthygen.org/sites/default/files/No%20School%20Alone\\_%20How%20com  
munity%20risks%20and%20assets%20contribute%20to%20school%20and%20youth%20s](http://www.healthygen.org/sites/default/files/No%20School%20Alone_%20How%20community%20risks%20and%20assets%20contribute%20to%20school%20and%20youth%20s)

1 academic-performance standards only half as often as peers who have not.<sup>9</sup> As a result,  
2 unaddressed trauma is a powerful driver of academic failure.

3 **C. Defendants' Failure To Provide Meaningful Access to Education to**  
4 **Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity and Trauma**

5 201. Particularly in schools like Havasupai Elementary School that serve  
6 populations of students who disproportionately have been impacted by adversity and/or  
7 have significant mental health needs, comprehensive school-wide practices are required to  
8 address childhood trauma and to create an environment in which students impacted by  
9 childhood adversity are able to learn. Such interventions can effectively address the  
10 disabling impact of adverse childhood experiences and give students the meaningful access  
11 to the public education to which they are entitled.

12 202. The key components of these school-wide practices include (1) training  
13 educators to recognize, understand, and proactively address the effects of complex trauma  
14 and childhood adversity, in part through building children's self-regulation and social-  
15 emotional learning skills; (2) developing restorative practices that build healthy  
16 relationships, peacefully resolve conflicts, and avoid re-traumatizing students through  
17 punitive discipline; (3) ensuring the availability of consistent mental health support to meet  
18 student needs, and (4) adopting practices and interventions that are responsive to Havasupai  
19 cultural beliefs and traditions and are created in partnership with community members.

20 203. Together, these school-wide practices create a safe, consistent, and supportive  
21 learning environment that allows students impacted by childhood adversity to learn.  
22 Schools that have put such practices in place have shown impressive improvements in  
23 student outcomes, with those children receiving appropriate intervention and receiving  
24 higher grades and demonstrating better behavior and concentration. Research has also  
25 indicated that appropriate remedial methods and supports can help mitigate the effects of

26 [uccess.pdf](#).

27 <sup>9</sup> Christopher C. Henrich et al., *The Association of Community Violence Exposure with*  
28 *Middle-School Achievement: A Prospective Study*, 25 J. APPL. DEV. PSYCHOL. 327, 343  
(2004).



1 ACEs.<sup>10</sup> With this support, Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity can benefit  
2 from a system of education that allows them to learn effectively in the classroom and  
3 meaningfully access a public education.

4 204. By failing to recognize and address the impact of trauma on students affected  
5 by adversity and failing to implement trauma-informed practices, Defendants have failed to  
6 ensure that Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity are provided meaningful  
7 access to public education at Havasupai Elementary School. Havasupai Elementary School  
8 has no culturally responsive programming to address the impact of childhood adversity and  
9 promote wellness. It does not train or sensitize teachers or administrative personnel to  
10 recognize, understand, and address the complex effects of childhood adversity and trauma  
11 in children. Without such training, school staff are unable to appropriately identify students  
12 in need of support, notify their families, or provide adequate interventions that may reduce  
13 the impact of trauma and other mental health challenges on learning and student outcomes.  
14 Moreover, culturally sensitive mental health and support services are either entirely  
15 unavailable or grossly insufficient to meet student needs.

16 205. Instead of receiving these and other appropriate resources, Student Plaintiffs  
17 Impacted by Childhood Adversity are subjected to punitive and counter-productive  
18 suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to law enforcement that push them out of school, off  
19 the path to graduation, and into the criminal justice system.

20 206. NADLC's advocacy demonstrates that services and supports that are limited  
21 only to individual students are not sufficient to address the impacts of childhood adversity  
22 on its clients and that school-wide practices are required to address childhood trauma.

23 **VI. ADDITIONAL FACTS COMMON TO ALL STUDENT PLAINTIFFS WITH**  
24 **DISABILITIES**

25 207. Defendants have failed to provide basic education to all students at  
26 Havasupai Elementary School, but students with disabilities face even more formidable  
27

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28 <sup>10</sup> Bethell, *supra* note 6, at 2112.

1 barriers to accessing public education. Plaintiffs with disabilities have been denied access  
2 to even the paltry general education that is provided at Havasupai Elementary School.

3 208. The need for a well-functioning system of special education to address the  
4 needs of students with disabilities is critical at Havasupai Elementary School, which serves  
5 a high proportion of students with disabilities. The School reported to the Advisory School  
6 Board in 2014 that approximately half of the students in the School had been identified as  
7 students with disabilities.

8 209. Havasupai Elementary School has no system for identifying those students  
9 who have disabilities or for ensuring that such students receive the specialized instruction,  
10 related services, and accommodations necessary for them to access a general education  
11 curriculum. Instead, students with disabilities are often excluded from school and subjected  
12 to punitive discipline and police prosecution on the basis of their disabilities.

13 210. Havasupai Elementary School also has no system for meeting the procedural  
14 requirements of Section 504 and its implementing regulations, including identifying and  
15 assessing students with disabilities and providing notice and procedural safeguards to  
16 families.

17 211. Staffing at Havasupai Elementary School is insufficient to provide the  
18 specialized instruction and related services required by federal law. Havasupai Elementary  
19 School does not employ, and has not employed at any time in recent years, sufficient  
20 numbers of the following personnel necessary to adequately provide special education  
21 services to students with disabilities: highly qualified special education teachers, mental  
22 health providers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech therapists. At no  
23 time in recent years has the School employed sufficient numbers of paraprofessionals or  
24 support staff to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The staffing of Havasupai  
25 Elementary School is so inadequate that the School cannot even hold IEP meetings on a  
26 timely basis.

27 212. The failure to provide federally mandated special-education services has had  
28 devastating consequences for students with disabilities. Even when such students are

1 present in the classroom, Defendants' failure to provide required specialized instruction and  
2 related services denies them meaningful access to general education. In addition, students  
3 with disabilities are routinely physically excluded from the School in various ways,  
4 including:

- 5 • **Restricted Hours Schedules:** Havasupai Elementary School students with  
6 disabilities are routinely denied a full day of public instruction. Because the  
7 School lacks the capacity to meet student needs by providing adequate  
8 specialized instruction or related services, students with disabilities are  
9 relegated to "homebound" placements or placed on restricted-hours schedules  
10 under which students receive only 3-6 hours of instruction per week.
- 11 • **Coercion to Leave Community:** Havasupai Elementary School students with  
12 disabilities are frequently compelled to choose between receiving the special  
13 education services to which they are entitled and staying in their community.  
14 Havasupai families who move outside the canyon in order to obtain services  
15 often endure significant financial hardships upon leaving their jobs and other  
16 sources of support on the reservation.
- 17 • **Exclusionary Discipline:** Instead of receiving the specialized instruction and  
18 related services to which they are entitled, and as a consequence of not  
19 receiving these services, Havasupai students with disabilities are routinely and  
20 repeatedly removed from the classroom and sent to the principal's office,  
21 suspended, or expelled in response to conduct that is a manifestation of the  
22 student's disability. Defendants fail to maintain accurate records of disciplinary  
23 action against students with disabilities, in clear violation of federal regulations  
24 implementing Section 504.
- 25 • **Referral to Law Enforcement:** Havasupai students with disabilities are  
26 frequently referred to law enforcement and even prosecuted in federal court for  
27 minor misbehavior that is a manifestation of their disabilities. Children miss  
28 weeks of instruction while awaiting hearings in a tribal court because those  
hearings are held only once per month. There has also been a pervasive BIA  
police presence on school grounds, where BIA officers frequently escorted  
home children who had been subject to exclusionary discipline.

21 213. Havasupai Elementary School does not have the capacity to meet its  
22 obligation to identify and provide comprehensive assessments of students with disabilities.  
23 The School makes matters even more challenging for parents by failing to provide  
24 information required by federal statutes and regulations, including notice of procedural  
25 safeguards and information necessary to understand disabilities, participate in planning, and  
26 access educational records. The School also does not have an adequate recordkeeping  
27 system in place.

28 214. Parents and community members who do assert the rights of students with

1 disabilities are often retaliated against by the School.

2 215. Because onset of disabilities can occur at any time, all student Plaintiffs  
3 require an adequate system to identify and assess the needs of students with disabilities.

4 **VII. ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF DEFENDANTS' FAILURE TO ENSURE**  
5 **ACCESS TO EDUCATION AT HAVASUPAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

6 216. Defendants' legal violations have had devastating consequences for the  
7 educational achievement and life chances of Havasupai students. The federal government's  
8 failure to invest in and provide for Native education and wellness in the face of trauma has  
9 resulted in stark educational deprivations for Native youth in all educational settings.

10 217. Native children attending BIE schools lag significantly behind their peers  
11 attending traditional public schools. But students who attend Havasupai Elementary School  
12 are among the most disadvantaged and furthest behind, even among students attending  
13 BIE-funded and -operated schools. Havasupai students perform many years below grade-  
14 level, even in the limited content areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics in which  
15 curriculum is provided.

16 218. Although the BIE has failed to adequately collect and disseminate publicly  
17 available performance data for the School, available BIE data shows that in the 2012-2013  
18 school year, Havasupai Elementary School students performed at the **1<sup>st</sup> percentile in**  
19 **reading and 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile in math**, based on a median percentile rank of 1 to 100.  
20 Moreover, BIE data reflects that Havasupai Elementary School students experienced a  
21 **large negative growth index** of **-.72** and **-.71** in reading and math, respectively, meaning  
22 that the academic progress made by individual Havasupai Elementary School students as  
23 they continued to attend the School was approximately 0.7 standard deviations lower than  
24 expected.<sup>11</sup> This performance placed the School dead last in both reading and math  
25 achievement out of nearly 60 BIE schools surveyed. Moreover, BIE data from two

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26  
27 <sup>11</sup> Northwest Education Evaluation Association, *BIE Report on Student Achievement and*  
28 *Growth: 2009-10 to 2012-13* at 56, 58 (2014),  
<http://www.bie.edu/cs/groups/webteam/documents/document/idc1-028067.pdf>.

1 consecutive school years running from 2011 through 2013 indicate that only about 15% of  
2 Havasupai students achieved grade-level proficiency in reading, and that not a single one  
3 achieved grade-level proficiency in math.<sup>12</sup>

4 219. As a result, Havasupai students arrive at the secondary-school level  
5 unprepared for high school-level work and years behind their peers who were provided  
6 appropriate education in the elementary and middle school years.

7 220. Because no high school instruction is available for Havasupai students in the  
8 community, students who have completed eighth grade must apply to BIE high schools—  
9 most of which are boarding schools with entrance requirements—or seek transfers to public  
10 schools outside of the canyon. Because of the substandard education provided at Havasupai  
11 Elementary School, students have repeatedly been unable to meet coursework and credit  
12 requirements or the basic proficiency standards necessary to attend BIE high schools.

13 221. Havasupai Elementary School students who are admitted to a secondary  
14 school typically struggle academically because they lack basic elementary education. As a  
15 result, it is estimated that fewer than 20% of Havasupai students eventually graduate from  
16 high school. Families in the Havasupai community fear that children attending Havasupai  
17 Elementary School will not be able to gain admission to a secondary school or that they  
18 will not successfully complete high school as a result of the educational deprivations at  
19 Havasupai Elementary School. As a result, multiple families with young children in  
20 kindergarten through eighth grade who otherwise would have attended Havasupai  
21 Elementary School have been compelled to leave their community in order to provide their  
22 children meaningful access to education.

23 **VIII. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO**  
24 **STUDENT PLAINTIFFS' RIGHTS**

25 222. For decades, the federal government has stood witness to profound disparities  
26 in the educational resources and outcomes of Native students. Numerous current and

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>12</sup> BIE Division of Performance and Accountability, *Annual Report: Havasupai Elementary School* at 2, 3 (2013), <http://www.bie.edu/cs/groups/xbie/documents/text/idc1-026335.pdf>.

1 former DOI and BIE leaders have acknowledged the failures in tribal education. They have  
2 also been made specifically aware of the problems at Havasupai Elementary School, yet  
3 have failed to act meaningfully to correct them.

4 223. The BIE's longstanding failure to provide Native students with adequate  
5 educational opportunities has been repeatedly recognized by federal officials in the White  
6 House, BIE, and Department of Education. The federal government has likewise repeatedly  
7 recognized the harmful impacts of complex trauma on Native youth and the critical need to  
8 provide wellness and mental health services to address trauma in BIE schools.

9 224. Defendant BIE acknowledged only last year, "[t]he DOI has a longstanding  
10 and troubling history of failing to provide a high quality education to American Indian  
11 students in BIE-funded schools," citing the very deprivations at issue in this complaint,  
12 including "failing schools," "failure to include tribal nations in the decision-making  
13 process," and "teachers and principal shortages."<sup>13</sup>

14 225. The Government Accountability Office ("GAO") concluded in 2015 that BIE  
15 schools were not complying with binding special education regulations.<sup>14</sup> Federal reports  
16 have repeatedly acknowledged that "American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to  
17 have worse educational outcomes than the general population by nearly all measures,"<sup>15</sup>  
18 and that Native students attending BIE schools perform even more poorly than their peers  
19 in public schools.<sup>16</sup>

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20 <sup>13</sup> BIE Study Group: *Blueprint for Reform, BIE Progress Report 2015* at 3,  
21 <https://www.bie.edu/cs/groups/xbie/documents/document/idc1-030931.pdf> (2015); BIE,  
22 *Synopsis of the Reprogramming*, <https://www.bie.edu/BFRI/index.htm> (2017); see also  
23 GAO, *Further Actions on GAO Recommendations Needed to Address System Management  
Challenges in Indian Education*, GAO-15-539T at 14 (Apr. 2015),  
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/669784.pdf> (hereinafter, "2015 GAO Report") (finding that  
40 percent of BIE regional facility jobs remained vacant in 2015).

24 <sup>14</sup> 2015 GAO Report at 14-16.

25 <sup>15</sup> Executive Office of the President, 2014 Native Youth Report at 14; see also *id.* at 15-16;  
26 GAO, *BIA and DOD Schools: Student Achievement and Other Characteristics Often Differ  
from Public Schools* 10, 12, 14 GAO-01-934 (2001),  
27 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d01934.pdf>.

28 <sup>16</sup> GAO Report, *Indian Affairs: Better Management and Accountability Needed to Improve  
Indian Education* 6, GAO-13-774 at 1 (Sept. 2013), <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/658071.pdf>.

1           226. Moreover, Defendants have long been specifically aware of the inadequacy of  
2 the education delivered to students at the School. A 2011 application for School  
3 Improvement Grant funding drafted by the former principal of Havasupai Elementary  
4 School and sent to Defendant BIE acknowledged nearly all of these issues,<sup>17</sup> including:

- 5           • “lack of a well defined [sic] and comprehensive instructional program”;
- 6           • the need to improve “quality of instruction,” and “little or no knowledge of  
7 effective instructional practices in areas of reading and math by instructional  
8 staff and site leaders; no instructional framework”;
- 9           • “changes in leadership (15 principals in 10 years; principals leaving in the  
10 middle of the year)” and “constant staff turnover,” including “teachers  
11 [leaving] in the middle and end of year”;
- 12           • “no substantive parent involvement activities”;
- 13           • “[h]igh levels of poverty, unemployment, low levels of literacy and substance  
14 abuse and family violence [that] plague th[e] community” and a “high level of  
15 discipline and disruptive incidents.”

16 The report concluded that “[t]he continued low academic achievement of HES students  
17 cannot be overstated.”

18           227. Members of the Havasupai Tribal Council have traveled to Washington, D.C.  
19 to meet with top BIE and DOI officials on multiple occasions including for a face-to-face  
20 meeting in April 2016 with the then-Acting Director of the BIE, Ann Marie Bledsoe  
21 Downes. The former Director of the BIE has also visited Havasupai within the last several  
22 years, as have many other BIE and DOI officials from Washington and regional offices.  
23 Most recently, the Director of the BIE, Defendant Dearman, met with the Havasupai Tribal  
24 Council in April 2018. During all of these meetings, members of the Havasupai Tribal  
25 Council have explained the problems facing the School and the need for the BIE to act.

26           228. In addition, the BIE’s Division of Performance and Accountability recently  
27 engaged in a “discussion on schools with intensive needs such as Havasupai.”<sup>18</sup> Over the  
28

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29 <sup>17</sup> Havasupai Elementary School, School Improvement Grant Application Packet, at 3-5,  
30 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

31 <sup>18</sup> BIE Special Education Advisory Board, *Regular Meeting Minutes* at 2, (Sept. 17-18,  
32 2015), <http://www.bie.edu/cs/groups/xbie/documents/text/idc1-032733.pdf>.

1 years, Havasupai parents and families, as well as members of the School Advisory Board  
2 and Tribal Council, have also complained to the BIE about the inadequacy of their  
3 children’s education and the mismanagement of the School by BIE staff.

4 229. Laila R., the mother of Plaintiffs Leo R. and Levi R., has helped draft and  
5 circulate written grievances concerning the School—including demands that vacant  
6 positions be filled when the School was severely understaffed and requests that the BIE  
7 provide standardized testing to students attending the School—to BIE officials, including  
8 former BIE director Monty Roessel, Arizona BIE education program administrator Jim  
9 Hastings, and former school principal Coleen Maldonado.

10 230. As a result, Defendants are specifically aware of each of the educational  
11 deprivations identified in this complaint. Yet they have taken no discernable steps to  
12 address significant disparities in the quality of the educational opportunities afforded to  
13 Havasupai students. Defendants’ actions and inactions resulting in the creation and  
14 exacerbation of these educational deficiencies are deliberate and conscious, in that they are  
15 aware of the causes of these deficiencies, yet have failed to establish any system to  
16 monitor, identify, and remedy identified inadequacies.

17 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
18 **(FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION REQUIRED TO**  
19 **PROVIDE BASIC EDUCATION (5 U.S.C. § 706(1)))**

20 **(All Plaintiffs against All Defendants)**

21 231. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
22 through 231 as if set forth fully here.

23 232. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706(1), a party  
24 aggrieved by agency action may bring an action requiring a court to “compel agency action  
25 unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed.”

26 233. Havasupai Elementary School is operated by Defendants.

27 234. Defendants are obligated to provide an education to Havasupai children that  
28 meets basic educational standards and enables students to access post-secondary  
educational opportunities in accordance with the standards set forth in federal statutes and



1 regulations, including, but not limited to, 25 U.S.C. §§ 2000-2001 & 2003; 20 U.S.C.  
2 § 7401; and 25 C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter E. Specifically:

3 235. Defendants must comply with 25 C.F.R. § 36.20, which requires providing an  
4 educational program including multi-culture and multi-ethnic dimensions designed to  
5 enable students to function effectively in a pluralistic society.

6 236. Defendants must comply with 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.21-36.23, which outline the  
7 minimum requirements for kindergarten, grades one through six, and grades seven and  
8 eight.

9 237. Defendants must comply with regulations governing staffing and  
10 administrative requirements, grading requirements, student promotion requirements,  
11 additional programming requirements (*e.g.*, “each school shall provide a library/media  
12 program”), textbooks, behavioral health services, extracurricular activities, evaluation and  
13 monitoring requirements, and student rights and due process protections. 25 C.F.R.  
14 §§ 36.11, 36.30-31, 36.40-43, 36.50-51.

15 238. Defendants have failed to take required discrete actions to comply with these  
16 regulations and to satisfy their obligations to provide an adequate education to Havasupai  
17 children.

18 239. These unlawful failures to act include, but are not limited to, the following:  
19 a. Defendants have not provided instruction in social studies;  
20 b. Defendants have not provided instruction in fine arts;  
21 c. Defendants have not provided instruction in science;  
22 d. Defendants have not provided instruction in computer literacy;  
23 e. Defendants have not provided instruction in career exploration and  
24 orientation;  
25 f. Defendants have not provided a functioning library/media program;  
26 g. Defendants have not provided adequate textbooks and instructional  
27 materials;  
28 h. Defendants have not provided behavioral health services;

- 1 i. Defendants have not provided extracurricular activities;
- 2 j. Defendants have not adequately staffed Havasupai Elementary School;
- 3 k. Defendants have not assessed the English and native language abilities
- 4 of students at Havasupai Elementary School;
- 5 l. Defendants have not provided instruction in the Havasupai language;
- 6 m. Defendants have not included aspects of the Havasupai culture in all
- 7 aspects of the curriculum;
- 8 n. Defendants have not evaluated the learning styles of students at
- 9 Havasupai Elementary School;
- 10 o. Defendants have not provided one field trip, per student, per year at
- 11 Havasupai Elementary School;
- 12 p. Defendants have not developed a student handbook including policies
- 13 and disciplinary procedures or communicated those policies and procedures to students and
- 14 their families;
- 15 q. Defendants have not established dispute resolution procedures to be
- 16 used in lieu of formal student discipline; and
- 17 r. Defendants have not established a procedure for formal disciplinary
- 18 hearings that provides notice and a hearing.

19 240. Plaintiffs, including NADLC, have been aggrieved by these failures to act  
20 because Havasupai children have been deprived of the educational opportunities to which  
21 they are entitled, and they have not been adequately prepared for the transition to high  
22 school.

23 241. Plaintiffs have suffered an irreparable injury that could not be adequately  
24 compensated by a remedy at law, the balance of the hardships between the parties warrants  
25 an equitable remedy, and the public interest would not be disserved by an equitable  
26 remedy.

27 242. Plaintiffs were not required to exhaust administrative remedies in order to  
28 bring this claim.

1 243. Plaintiffs are entitled to appropriate relief.

2 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
3 **(FAILURE TO PROVIDE BASIC EDUCATION (5 U.S.C. § 706(2)))**

4 **(All Plaintiffs against All Defendants)**

5 244. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
6 through 244 as if set forth fully here.

7 245. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2), a party  
8 aggrieved by agency action may bring an action requiring a court to “hold unlawful and set  
9 aside agency action, findings, and conclusions found to be . . . arbitrary, capricious, an  
10 abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.”

11 246. Havasupai Elementary School is operated by Defendants.

12 247. Defendants are obligated to provide an education to Havasupai children that  
13 meets basic educational standards and enables students to access post-secondary  
14 educational opportunities in accordance with the standards set forth in federal statutes and  
15 regulations, including, but not limited to, 25 U.S.C. §§ 2000-2001 & 2003; 20 U.S.C.  
16 § 7401; and 25 C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter E. Specifically:

17 248. Defendants must comply with 25 C.F.R. § 36.20, which requires providing an  
18 educational program including multi-culture and multi-ethnic dimensions designed to  
19 enable students to function effectively in a pluralistic society.

20 249. Defendants must comply with 25 C.F.R. §§ 36.21-36.23, which outline the  
21 minimum requirements for kindergarten, grades one through six, and grades seven and  
22 eight.

23 250. Defendants must comply with regulations governing staffing and  
24 administrative requirements, grading requirements, student promotion requirements,  
25 additional programming requirements (*e.g.*, “each school shall provide a library/media  
26 program”), textbooks, behavioral health services, extracurricular activities, evaluation and  
27 monitoring requirements, and student rights and due process protections. 25 C.F.R.  
28 §§ 36.11, 36.30-31, 36.40-43, 36.50-51.

1 251. Defendants have acted in a manner that is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of  
2 discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law in their administration of Havasupai  
3 Elementary School.

4 252. The actions of Defendants that are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of  
5 discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law include, but are not limited to, the  
6 failures listed in paragraph 240, *supra*.

7 253. Plaintiffs, including NADLC, have been aggrieved by these actions because  
8 Havasupai children have been deprived of the educational opportunities to which they are  
9 entitled, and they have not been adequately prepared for the transition to high school.

10 254. Plaintiffs have suffered an irreparable injury that could not be adequately  
11 compensated by a remedy at law, the balance of the hardships between the parties warrants  
12 an equitable remedy, and the public interest would not be disserved by an equitable  
13 remedy.

14 255. Plaintiffs were not required to exhaust administrative remedies in order to  
15 bring this claim.

16 256. Plaintiffs are entitled to appropriate relief.

17 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
18 **(FAILURE TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM ENABLING STUDENTS WITH**  
19 **DISABILITIES TO ACCESS PUBLIC EDUCATION (29 U.S.C. § 794))**

20 **(Plaintiffs Stephen C., Durell P., Taylor P.,**  
21 **Leo R., Levi R., Jenny A., Jordan A., Moana L. and NADLC**  
22 **against Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze)**

23 257. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
24 through 257 as if set forth fully here.

25 258. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, “[n]o otherwise qualified  
26 individual with a disability. . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded  
27 from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under  
28 . . . any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency . . . .” 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

29 259. Havasupai Elementary School is a “program or activity,” which term is  
30 defined to include school systems. 29 U.S.C. § 794(b)(2)(B).

1           260. The definition of “disability” is a “physical or mental impairment that  
2 substantially limits one or more life activities,” such as (but not limited to), “caring for  
3 oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing,  
4 lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, *learning, reading, concentrating, thinking,*  
5 *communicating,* and working.” 42 U.S.C. §§ 12102(1)(A), (2)(A) (emphasis added).

6           261. Thus, Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze are  
7 required to provide special education instruction, related services, and appropriate  
8 resources to Havasupai students with physical or mental impairments that substantially  
9 limit them with respect to learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, and/or  
10 communicating; and they must put into place a system—including procedures, teachers,  
11 and appropriate providers—for delivery of specialized instruction and services in order to  
12 ensure that those students have access to the benefits of a public education.

13           262. Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze have failed  
14 to establish a system to ensure that students with disabilities receive the special education,  
15 related services, and other resources necessary to access to the benefits of a public  
16 education. Specifically:

17           263. At Havasupai Elementary School, there is not a sufficient number of qualified  
18 special education teachers; there are no special education classrooms, no occupational  
19 therapists, physical therapists, or speech therapists; and there are either no or insufficient  
20 mental health staff and support staff.

21           264. Students with disabilities are either not given a full day of instruction or are  
22 channeled into residential schools, forcing students and their families to choose between  
23 leaving home to obtain adequate schooling and services, or living at home in their own  
24 community without access to basic education.

25           265. Defendants have compounded their failure to provide education to students  
26 with disabilities by relying on police and the criminal justice system, or repeated  
27 suspension and punitive discipline, instead of counseling and support. Students miss such a  
28 significant amount of school—including while on suspension or awaiting court hearings—

1 that they fall far behind their peers from an educational perspective.

2 266. Plaintiffs, including NADLC, have been damaged by the failure to provide a  
3 system for serving Havasupai students with disabilities, which has deprived those students  
4 of access to public education.

5 267. Plaintiffs have suffered irreparable injury that could not be adequately  
6 compensated by a remedy at law, the balance of the hardships between the parties warrants  
7 an equitable remedy, and the public interest would not be disserved by an equitable  
8 remedy.

9 268. Plaintiffs do not need to administratively exhaust their claim. There is no  
10 administrative procedure for challenging Defendants' school-wide failure to provide a  
11 system for serving students with disabilities. Indeed, the BIE has not even promulgated  
12 regulations for challenging individual denials of access to education for students with  
13 disabilities. Even if a family could somehow obtain an individual remedy through a due  
14 process proceeding or some other form of administrative process, Defendants could not  
15 implement that remedy at Havasupai Elementary School because they have no system in  
16 place for doing so.

17 269. Moreover, declaratory relief, which is essential to this claim, is not available  
18 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*  
19 Thus, the IDEA exhaustion requirement cannot be applied to this claim.

20 270. Plaintiffs are entitled to appropriate relief.

21 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
22 **(FAILURE TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM ENABLING STUDENT PLAINTIFFS**  
23 **IMPACTED BY CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY TO ACCESS PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
**(29 U.S.C. § 794)**

24 **(Plaintiffs Stephen C., Durell P., Taylor P.,**  
25 **Leo R., Levi R., Jenny A., Jordan A., Moana L. and NADLC**  
26 **against Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze)**

27 271. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
28 through 271 as if set forth fully here.

272. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, "[n]o otherwise qualified

1 individual with a disability . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded  
2 from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under  
3 . . . any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency . . . .” 29 U.S.C. § 794(a).

4 273. Havasupai Elementary School is a “program or activity.” 29 U.S.C.  
5 § 794(b)(2)(B).

6 274. The definition of “disability” is a “physical or mental impairment that  
7 substantially limits one or more life activities,” including, but not limited to, “caring for  
8 oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing,  
9 lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, *learning, reading, concentrating, thinking,*  
10 *communicating,* and working.” 42 U.S.C. §§ 12102(1)(A), (2)(A) (emphasis added).

11 275. The effects of complex trauma cause impairment that limits a student’s  
12 ability to learn, read, concentrate, think, and/or communicate, and to generally receive an  
13 education and have the opportunity to succeed in school.

14 276. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity have been exposed to  
15 childhood adversity and historical trauma within their community and experience or have  
16 experienced complex trauma and its effects, substantially limiting them with respect to  
17 learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, and/or communicating.

18 277. Solely by reason of their unaddressed exposure to complex trauma and its  
19 effects, Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity have been denied meaningful  
20 access to public education by Defendants.

21 278. There are effective and reasonable accommodations that Defendants could  
22 implement that would allow Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity to learn,  
23 read, concentrate, think, communicate, and enjoy the benefit of a public education. The  
24 effects of complex trauma can be addressed with behavioral and mental health resources, as  
25 well as culturally relevant interventions, in order for students to have meaningful access to  
26 education. In order to meaningfully access public education, Student Plaintiffs Impacted by  
27 Childhood Adversity require a system that is responsive to and capable of addressing the  
28 impact of complex trauma.

1           279. Defendants have failed to establish a system to ensure that Student Plaintiffs  
2 Impacted by Childhood Adversity receive the specialized instruction, related services, and  
3 other resources necessary to access to the benefits of a public education.

4           280. Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze are  
5 required to provide specialized instruction, related services, and other resources to Student  
6 Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity, and they must put into place a system—  
7 including procedures, teachers, and appropriate providers—for delivery of specialized  
8 instruction and services in order to ensure that those students have access to the benefits of  
9 a public education.

10           281. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity and NADLC have been  
11 damaged by the failure to provide a system for serving Havasupai students who have  
12 suffered adversity and complex trauma, which has deprived those students of access to  
13 public education.

14           282. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity have suffered an  
15 irreparable injury that could not be adequately compensated by a remedy at law, the  
16 balance of the hardships between the parties warrants an equitable remedy, and the public  
17 interest would not be disserved by an equitable remedy.

18           283. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity do not need to  
19 administratively exhaust their claim. There is no administrative procedure for challenging  
20 Defendants' school-wide failure to provide a system to address the needs of students who  
21 have been exposed to adversity and complex trauma. Indeed, the BIE has not even  
22 promulgated regulations for challenging individual denials of access to education for such  
23 students. Even if a family could somehow obtain an individual remedy through a due  
24 process proceeding or some other form of administrative process, Defendants could not  
25 implement that remedy at Havasupai Elementary School because they have no system in  
26 place for doing so.

27           284. Moreover, declaratory relief, which is essential to this claim, is not available  
28 under IDEA. Thus, the IDEA exhaustion requirement cannot be applied to this claim.



1 285. Student Plaintiffs Impacted by Childhood Adversity are entitled to  
2 appropriate relief.

3 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
4 **(VIOLATION OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REGULATIONS**  
5 **REGARDING “LOCATION AND NOTIFICATION,” 34 C.F.R. § 104.32)**

6 **(Plaintiffs Stephen C., Durell P., Taylor P.,**  
7 **Leo R., Levi R., Jenny A., Jordan A., Moana L. and NADLC**  
8 **against Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze)**

9 286. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
10 through 286 as if set forth fully here.

11 287. Department of Education (“DOE”) regulations require a recipient of DOE  
12 funding to identify and locate students who are not properly receiving an adequate public  
13 education as a result of their disabilities, including but not limited to identification and  
14 location of students whose disabilities are related to complex trauma and its effects.

15 288. Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze receive  
16 DOE funding to provide special education services at Havasupai Elementary School.

17 289. Defendants have not established and implemented policies or procedures to  
18 identify and locate Havasupai students who are not properly receiving an adequate public  
19 education on account of their disabilities, including but not limited to disabilities related to  
20 complex trauma and its effects.

21 290. Defendants have failed to locate and identify Havasupai students who are not  
22 properly receiving an adequate public education on account of their disabilities, including  
23 but not limited to disabilities related to complex trauma and its effects.

24 291. Defendants have not established and implemented policies or procedures to  
25 notify the parents or guardians of Havasupai students who are not receiving an adequate  
26 public education as a result of their disabilities, including but not limited to disabilities  
27 related to complex trauma and its effects, of Defendants’ duty to identify students who  
28 might require a reasonable accommodation.

29 292. Defendants have failed to notify the parents or guardians of Havasupai

1 students who are not receiving an adequate public education as a result of their disabilities,  
2 including but not limited to disabilities related to complex trauma and its effects, of  
3 Defendants' duty to identify students who might require a reasonable accommodation.

4 293. Plaintiffs, including NADLC, have been damaged by the failure to provide a  
5 system to locate and notify Havasupai students who are not receiving an adequate public  
6 education as a result of their disabilities, which has deprived those students of access to  
7 public education.

8 294. This is an irreparable injury that could not be adequately compensated by a  
9 remedy at law, the balance of the hardships between the parties warrants an equitable  
10 remedy, and the public interest would not be disserved by an equitable remedy.

11 295. Plaintiffs do not need to administratively exhaust their claim. There is no  
12 administrative procedure for challenging Defendants' school-wide failure to provide a  
13 system for serving students with disabilities. Indeed, the BIE has not even promulgated  
14 regulations for challenging individual denials of access to education for students with  
15 disabilities. Even if a family could somehow obtain an individual remedy through a due  
16 process proceeding or some other form of administrative process, Defendants could not  
17 implement that remedy at Havasupai Elementary School because they have no system in  
18 place for doing so.

19 296. Moreover, declaratory relief, which is essential to this claim, is not available  
20 under IDEA. Thus, the IDEA exhaustion requirement cannot be applied to this claim.

21 297. Plaintiffs are entitled to appropriate relief.

22 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
23 **(VIOLATION OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
24 **REGULATIONS REGARDING "PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS,"**  
25 **34 C.F.R. § 104.36)**

26 **(Plaintiffs Stephen C., Durell P., Taylor P.,**  
27 **Leo R., Levi R., Jenny A., Jordan A., Moana L. and NADLC**  
28 **against Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze)**

29 298. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1  
30 through 298 as if set forth fully here.

1 299. DOE regulations provide that a recipient of DOE funding that “operates a  
2 public elementary or secondary education program or activity shall establish and  
3 implement, with respect to actions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational  
4 placement of persons who, because of handicap, need or are believed to need special  
5 instruction or related services, a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an  
6 opportunity for the parents or guardian of the person to examine relevant records, an  
7 impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the person’s parents or guardian and  
8 representation by counsel, and a review procedure.” 34 C.F.R. § 104.36.

9 300. Defendants Zinke, Sweeney, Dearman, and Roanhorse-Dineyahze receive  
10 DOE funding to provide special education services at Havasupai Elementary School.

11 301. Defendants have not established and implemented a system of procedural  
12 safeguards with respect to actions regarding identification, evaluation, and educational  
13 placement of students who are not receiving an adequate public education as a result of  
14 their disabilities, including but not limited to the fact that they have suffered complex  
15 trauma.

16 302. Defendants have failed to establish a system of procedural safeguards for  
17 Havasupai students that includes notice, an opportunity for parents or guardians to examine  
18 relevant records, an impartial hearing, and a review procedure. Defendants’ failure to  
19 establish such a system has resulted in negative consequences for students who were  
20 entitled to the protection of procedural safeguards, including suspension, involuntary  
21 transfer, expulsion, and law enforcement referrals.

22 303. Plaintiffs, including NADLC, have been damaged by the failure to provide  
23 such procedural safeguards to Havasupai students who are not receiving an adequate public  
24 education as a result of their disabilities, which has deprived those students of access to  
25 public education.

26 304. This is an irreparable injury that could not be adequately compensated by a  
27 remedy at law, the balance of the hardships between the parties warrants an equitable  
28 remedy, and the public interest would not be disserved by an equitable remedy.

1 305. Plaintiffs do not need to administratively exhaust their claim. There is no  
2 administrative procedure for challenging Defendants' school-wide failure to provide a  
3 system for serving students with disabilities. Indeed, the BIE has not even promulgated  
4 regulations for challenging individual denials of access to education for students with  
5 disabilities. Even if a family could somehow obtain an individual remedy through a due  
6 process proceeding or some other form of administrative process, Defendants could not  
7 implement that remedy at Havasupai Elementary School because they have no system in  
8 place for doing so.

9 306. Moreover, declaratory relief, which is essential to this claim, is not available  
10 under IDEA. Thus, the IDEA exhaustion requirement cannot be applied to this claim.

11 307. Plaintiffs are entitled to appropriate relief.

12 **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request the following relief:

14 1. The issuance of a Declaratory Judgment that the actions and omissions of the  
15 Defendants, as described above, constitute violations of the Indian Education Act, the  
16 Rehabilitation Act, as well as numerous other federal laws, and violate student Plaintiffs'  
17 civil rights;

18 2. The issuance of a Declaratory Judgment setting forth the duties and  
19 obligations of Defendants with respect to the delivery of education to students at Havasupai  
20 Elementary School.

21 3. Appropriate injunctive relief requiring Defendants, their officers, agents,  
22 employees, successors in office and assigns/assignees to provide student Plaintiffs:

- 23 a. access to an adequate public education including access to all required subjects,  
24 content, and curriculum;
- 25 b. access to education provided by sufficient numbers of qualified teachers and  
26 related services providers based on the needs of the school-age population in  
27 Havasupai;
- 28 c. access to education that is culturally relevant based on the unique culture and

- 1 tradition of the Havasupai tribe;
- 2 d. access to instruction appropriate to students' native language;
- 3 e. access to education that is properly governed by a school board appointed by the
- 4 Tribal Council;
- 5 f. access to education that includes appropriate assessment of student achievement,
- 6 with assessment results provided and explained to parents and students;
- 7 g. public disclosure of disaggregated achievement data as required by law;
- 8 h. access to timely special education and related services as needed and of
- 9 sufficient duration and intensity based on individual needs of students, with such
- 10 services to be provided to students in the least restrictive environment in their
- 11 home community to the maximum degree possible;
- 12 i. trained staff and services necessary to respond to complex trauma and students'
- 13 social-emotional needs, including, but not limited to: (1) comprehensive and
- 14 ongoing training, coaching, and consultation for all adult staff regarding trauma-
- 15 informed and culturally sensitive strategies for educating students and fostering a
- 16 healthy, supporting environment; (2) implementation of restorative practices to
- 17 prevent, address, and heal after conflict; (3) employment of appropriately trained
- 18 counselors who can assist with identification of students who have mental-health
- 19 difficulties; (4) adoption of practices and interventions to enhance student
- 20 wellness that are responsive to Havasupai beliefs and traditions and are created
- 21 in partnership with community members.
- 22 j. procedures to ensure that parents of students at Havasupai Elementary School are
- 23 able to participate fully in their education, including procedures protecting parent
- 24 and student rights related to: (1) parental notification of individual student
- 25 progress; (2) identification, evaluation, placement, and educational programs of
- 26 students with disabilities; (3) parental notification of injuries of students on
- 27 school campus; (4) student and parental notice of discipline actions against
- 28 students; (5) parental notification of law enforcement interactions with students

1 and law enforcement presence on school campus;

2 k. Compensatory and remedial education to provide access to all required general-  
3 education subjects, along with any needed special-education and related services,  
4 to all student Plaintiffs—including to those who previously attended but no  
5 longer attend Havasupai Elementary School;

6 l. Appointment of an independent third party to receive and respond to complaints  
7 from parents or tribal officials;

8 4. A permanent injunction enjoining Defendants, their officers, agents,  
9 employees, successors in office and assigns/assignees from engaging in the actions,  
10 omissions, policies, and practices that have resulted in their failure and refusal to enforce  
11 the requirements of the Indian Education Act and its implementing regulations and Section  
12 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations at Havasupai  
13 Elementary School;

14 5. An award of costs and attorneys’ fees on behalf of Plaintiffs pursuant to  
15 29 U.S.C. § 794(a) and any applicable provisions of law;

16 6. A grant of such other or additional relief as this Court may deem just and  
17 proper.

18 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 10th day of August, 2018.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 10, 2018, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the CM/ECF registrants for this matter.

s/ Frances Fulwiler

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