

June 9, 2026

Jennifer Hamilton  
Senior Vice President  
Education and Child Development  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
2021 N Amidon Avenue, Suite 1300  
Wichita, KS 67203

Dear Dr. Hamilton:

The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council is pleased to support NORC at the University of Chicago's proposal for the Region 9 (Central) Comprehensive Center funded by the U.S. Department of Education under ALN #84.283B. The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council was legislatively established to address the achievement gap between Native and non-Native students in South Dakota and to promote the highest quality of education for all American Indian children in South Dakota. Our members include all tribes in South Dakota, the South Dakota Board of Education, Tribal Education Departments, the South Dakota Education Association, the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations, the South Dakota Board of Regents, and school districts that possess a significant American Indian population and/or reside in the proximity of a significant tribal population.

In our [2025 Annual Report](#), we recommended that "the South Dakota Office of Indian Education and Comprehensive Center repeat the Wellness Programs Survey conducted in 2024, and share the results from this survey, as well as the ongoing project, with the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council." The Central Comprehensive Center at NORC is currently responding to this need, which will provide information critical to building our understanding of the services available to Native American students in South Dakota.

This needs assessment survey continues to be our highest priority for Central Comprehensive Center support. We understand that the Comprehensive Centers Program is designed to help State and Tribal education agencies improve educational outcomes, strengthen capacity, and advance evidence-based practices, and believe this support will help us achieve our goals for the students we serve.

The five-year plan described in NORC's Central Comprehensive Center proposal is responsive to our recommendation and request for support. The South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council is committed to supporting the proposed project through the following contributions:

- **Partnership and collaboration:** We will nominate a designee to this project to partner with the NORC team to design capacity-building services, identify time-based project outcomes, and participate in the Central Comprehensive Center Advisory Board.

- **Facilitate project success:** We will use our networks to support outreach to and participation in Central Comprehensive Center activities.
- **Sustainability planning:** We will collaborate with the NORC team to identify strategies to widely disseminate information to strengthen the reach and impact of project activities and institutionalize successful practices within our system.

We believe that NORC is uniquely well-positioned to lead this effort due to their demonstrated ability to respond to the needs of the students and families we serve and experience leading successful implementation efforts.

Their proposed work will provide substantial value to the South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council and to all South Dakota districts and schools that serve Native American students.

Sincerely,



Frederick J. Osborn  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Indian Education Advisory Council