

# December 13, 2024 — US Department of the Interior website's page on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative


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## Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

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*"I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace."*

— Secretary Deb Haaland

Between 1819 through the 1970s, the United States implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the nation. The purpose of federal Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children by forcibly removing them from their families, communities, languages, religions and cultural beliefs. While children attended federal boarding schools, many endured physical and emotional abuse and, in some cases, died.

In June 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland [announced the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#), a comprehensive effort to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies with the goal of addressing their intergenerational impact and to shed light on the traumas of the past.

The Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative included a number of efforts:









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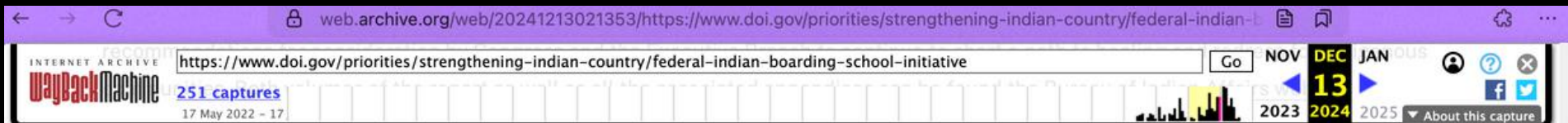
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# WHAT THEY TRIED TO ERASE — Oral histories and reports on racial harm against Indigenous children



- **The Road to Healing:** In late 2023, Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary Newland completed “The Road to Healing,” a historic 12-stop tour across the country that provided Indigenous survivors the opportunity to share with the federal government their experiences in federal Indian boarding schools for the first time. The Road to Healing events including opportunities to connect survivors with trauma-informed support through the Department of Health and Human Service’s Indian Health Service and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Transcripts from visits on “The Road to Healing” are below:

- [Riverside Indian School, OK](#)
- [Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, MI](#)
- [Rosebud Sioux Tribe, SD](#)
- [Gila River Indian Community, AZ](#)
- [Navajo Nation, AZ, NM, UT](#)
- [Tulalip Indian Tribes, WA](#)
- [Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, MN](#)
- [Sherman Indian High School, CA](#)
- [Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, CA](#)
- [Alaska Native Heritage Center, AK](#)
- [Pueblo of Isleta, NM](#)
- [Montana State University, MT](#)



- **Oral History Project:** The Department also launched an [oral history project](#) to document and make accessible to the public the experiences of generations of Indigenous then-children who attended the federal Indian boarding school system. Through a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and with funding from the Mellon Foundation and the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition is currently interviewing survivors for what will be a collection of first-person narratives.



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