

# Federal Funds Released for Indian Educ.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, meeting in Juneau Thursday, approved the acceptance and release of \$818,436 in federal funds for Indian Education in rural Alaska.

The funds, granted to the Alaska State Operated School System, will be utilized to improve the educational opportunities and experiences of rural native students.

This objective will be addressed by a variety of strategies specified at the local level by the cooperative efforts of the school staff, community members and advisory school boards.

Activities will provide for the learning of basic skills through diagnostic-prescriptive techniques, Bilingual-Bicultural learning and pre-school programs.

The Indian Education Act proposal outlines a process by which 1) a regional education committee, composed of local advisory school board chairmen, will allocate funds to schools in communities with the greatest needs, 2) local residents will plan the educational program, and 3) support services for planning and operating programs are made available as needed.

Receipt of the Indian Education monies will permit hiring of project staff for which recruitment has been under way.

Staff members will then plan for regional meetings between school board chairmen or their representatives, regional superintendents and local residents to determine regional priorities, local programs and sites.

The Indian Education project design has in large measure resulted from the extensive educational needs assessment conducted by seven Regional Native Associations, recently published under the title "A Modest Proposal."

In "A Modest Proposal" native Alaskans have asserted their belief that community residents must determine their own educational needs, creating their own ideas as to how such needs may be met, according to the environment in which they live.

One of the goals of the Alaska State-Operated School System is to facilitate the development of viable school boards and a community-school approach in which parents are involved in all appropriate decisions.

Such involvement is seen to be an integral part of the Indian Education Project.