



NATIVE ELEMENTS

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Native American Boarding School Deaths

Based on investigative reports from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and independent investigations as of late 2024, the following data highlights the impact of Native American boarding schools. The official death toll is expected to rise significantly as investigations continue.



The U.S. government operated or supported **over 400 boarding schools** designed to strip Native children of their cultural identities, languages, and religions.

REPORTED DOI Numbers: As of July 2024, the DOI identified at least **973 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children** who died while attending schools in the system.



Actual Deaths Identified: **Over 3,100 Indigenous students died** while attending U.S. boarding schools between 1828 and 1970.

Burial Sites: More than **800 student burials** have been identified at or near these school sites, with many children never returned to their families.



While a 2022 federal report initially found **500 deaths**, continued investigations and independent reporting have revealed the death toll is at **least 3x higher** than initial government figures.

The US Government **operated 417 Total boarding schools** across 37 states from 1879 to 1970.



The Interior Department reviewed **100 million+ pages** of federal records and listened to boarding school survivors during a **3 year investigation**.

By 1926, **more than 80%** of Indigenous school-age children (**over 60,000 children**) were attending boarding schools.



The US spent **\$23 Billion** on the boarding school system.

In 2024 Fort Belknap welcomed home the remains of 3 young people who died at Carlisle boarding school, **100 years ago**.

