

## BIE STRATEGIC DIRECTION

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bureau of Indian Education is beginning a new chapter by improving its education service delivery through the BIE Strategic Direction (Direction). This Direction is a tool to transform BIE into the service-minded institution it should be to provide a high-quality education to our students. One focused on instilling the values of Excellence, Focus, Integrity, Respect, and Service throughout the agency to make sure students are provided a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares them with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to flourish in the opportunities of tomorrow.

Visiting with students and staff in schools across Indian Country as well as with Tribal and education stakeholders revealed that while great work was taking place in many locations, the BIE lacked a common strategy for capitalizing on local efforts making a positive difference in peoples' lives. Nor did BIE have an effective tool to address unnecessary barriers for meeting our top priority – providing a quality education to our students. The Direction changes all that.

The Direction is based on the collaborative work of BIE staff, educators, Tribes and stakeholders across the country – those who understand the issues first-hand and have real solutions – to incorporate a strong theory of action that focuses efforts on achieving the most essential strategic goals:

- All students will enter kindergarten academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to succeed in school;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing in a positive, safe, and culturally relevant learning environment;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to progress successfully through school and be prepared for postsecondary education and/or career opportunities;
- All students will graduate high school ready to think globally and succeed in postsecondary study and careers;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to lead their sovereign nations to a thriving future through self-determination; and
- All students will benefit from an education system that is effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable.

Taken together, these strategic goals are a step forward and represent the hard work of BIE staff, educators, Tribes, and stakeholders and their collective commitment to our students. The Direction provides a sound framework for improving student achievement; maximizing resources; providing targeted technical assistance to bureau operated and Tribally controlled schools; and establishing a means for supporting educators and staff while improving oversight and accountability through performance management.

While implementation is just beginning and there may be unanticipated issues along the way, the Direction is the launch of a new era for the BIE and provides the ability to address potential barriers as they develop. The BIE will continue the work to address obstacles as they arise while simultaneously expanding on successes as the BIE vision comes to fruition. The BIE is committed to upholding the treaty obligations to Indian Tribes through continuous improvement in how students, families and Tribes and their future generations are served. All are encouraged to take time to review the BIE Direction as it provides a unified process for improving education delivery for BIE students for the years to come.



**The Direction is available at <https://www.bie.edu/StrategicDirection/index.htm>. For further information about the Direction, contact BIE at [BIEStrategicDirection@bie.edu](mailto:BIEStrategicDirection@bie.edu).**