



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Education
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children
In-Person and Online Meeting | April 13-14, 2023
Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM

Meeting Purpose: To provide the advisory board and the public with information about special education issues to help improve special education and related services for children with disabilities within the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school system; and to meet the mandates of Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

Special Education Advisory Board Function: The duties are solely advisory and are to:

- Assist in the coordination of services within the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the BIE with other local, State, and Federal agencies in the provision of education for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.
- Advise and assist the Secretary in the performance of the Secretary's responsibilities described in section 611(h)(6) of IDEA.
- Develop and recommend policies concerning effective inter- and intra-agency collaboration, including modifications to regulations, and the elimination of barriers to inter- and intra-agency programs and activities.
- Provide assistance and disseminate information on best practices, effective program coordination strategies, and recommendations for improved early intervention services or educational programming for Indian infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.
- Provide assistance in the preparation of information required to be submitted under section 611(h)(2)(D) of IDEA.
- The Board shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Congress an annual report containing a description of the activities of the Board for the preceding year. The Secretary shall make this annual report available to the Secretary of Education.

Meeting Outcomes/Objectives: Collect special education information from panelists, develop the advisory board agenda for the June 22-23, 2023 meeting; discuss and develop priorities to work on.

Supplementary Information: This advisory board is authorized under the provisions of the Public Law 108- 446 IDEA of 2004, Part B, Sec. 611(a)(6); Sec. 612(a)(21)(A); and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C. 10); and the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended).

Public Comment Sessions: Public comments can be made about concerns or issues to help improve special education or related services for children with disabilities within the BIE school system. Please send comments to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO): Email: Jennifer.davis@bie.edu or U.S. Postal/Delivered to: Bureau of Indian Education, Attention: Jennifer Davis, DFO, 2600 N. Central Ave., 12th Floor, Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85004; or Verbal or Written Comments: can be made during the public commenting sessions, in-person or online. Four commenting sessions will be provided during this 2-day meeting. Refer to the agenda for the scheduled commenting session periods.



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Meeting Registration Information

The BIE Advisory Board meeting days and times: **April 13-14, 2023 | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)**. Register once (use link below) to attend one or both meeting events. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-CvrD0vGkIWHMVVgFFxwHgMNiM5aak>

Meeting Location & Time Zone: This meeting is open to the public and can be accessed in-person or online. The meeting site is at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. The Mountain Daylight Time zone (MDT) will be used for this meeting.

Day 1 – Thursday, April 13, 2023

TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)	
8:00 - 8:30 AM Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call; Introduction of new Board members; Old Business – review the January 2023 Minutes; New Business
8:30 - 10:00 AM The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and Indian Health Services (IHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BIE and IHS will discuss the MOU regarding support services at all levels for the children attending BIE funded schools. The following questions have been provided to the presenters to prepare for this discussion.
Presenters:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist, BIE/Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA)/Special Education Program Captain Carol Lincoln, Director, Division of Nursing Services, Indian Health Services Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS).
<p><i>The following questions were provided to the presenters to prepare for this discussion.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Please describe the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirement for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services to support services at all levels for students attending BIE funded schools and provide an update on the progress of the MOU. What progress has been made toward distributing the funds to employ a nurse at each BIE Funded School? (See attached letter from IHS Deputy Director dated December 5, 2022). Describe what services IHS can provide to the schools. Explain the process for the Bureau Operated Schools (BOS) and Tribally Controlled Schools (TCS) to obtain medical information necessary for educational services. 	
10:00 -10:15 AM Break	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Education
 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

10:15 - 10:30 AM | Board Reflection (Special Education Coordinator panel discussion)

10:15 - 11:30 AM | PANEL DISCUSSION - BIE SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATORS

- A live discussion between four Special Education Coordinators who work within various BIE funded schools have volunteered to discuss special education topics with the Advisory Board members. Representatives are from each of the three ADD regions: Bureau Operated Schools (BOS), Tribally Controlled Schools (TCS) and Navajo Schools (BOS and TCS), with various grade levels from K-12, are included. Dr. Harvey Rude, Vice-Chairperson of the Board will facilitate the discussion. The four Special Education Coordinators are:

Panelists:

- **Jay B. Twitchell, Special Education Director** - Gila Crossing Community School, Laveen, Arizona, TCS, K-8
- **Bessie Horseherder, Exceptional Student Services Coordinator** - Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo TCS, 9-12
- **Ylandra Wimmer, Special Education Coordinator** - Tuba City Boarding School, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo BOS, K-8
- **Dr. Elizabeth S. Younce, Director Exceptional Student Services** - Cherokee Central Schools, Cherokee, North Carolina, TCS, K-12

The following questions were provided to the presenters to prepare for this discussion.

1. The pandemic resulted in multiple years where a substantial percentage of students lost instruction partially or completely for multiple reasons. How are schools going to ensure that children are not mis-identified as students with disabilities?
2. What are the complications resulting from COVID for children with disabilities? What strategies have been effective to educate children with disabilities post COVID?
3. What additional supports or resources do you need to help address student educational loss where it's been identified?
4. Describe how your school is facilitating student and parent involvement to improve services and results for children with disabilities.

11:30 - 11:45 AM | Public Comment Session #1 – see page 1 for public comment information

11:45 - 1:00 PM | Lunch (on your own)

1:00 - 1:15 PM | Board Reflection for Special Education Coordinator panel discussion

1:15 - 2:30 PM | PANEL DISCUSSION - BIE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

- A live discussion between five school leaders (Superintendents, Principals) who work within various BIE funded schools have volunteered to discuss special education topics with the Advisory Board members. Representatives are from each of the three ADD regions: BOS, TCS and Navajo schools, with various grade levels from K-12, are included. Norman Shawanokasic, Chairperson of the Board will facilitate the discussion. The five school leaders are:



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Panelists:

- **Dr. Marilou Areno, Superintendent** - Dishchii'bikoh Community School, Cibecue, Arizona, TCS, K-12 grade levels.
- **Arlene M. Atencio, Principal** - San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School, San Felipe, New Mexico, BOS, K-7 grade levels.
- **Jennifer Blackbear, Assistant Principal** - Sequoyah High School, Talaquah, Oklahoma, TCS, 9-12 grade levels.
- **Lillian Kim Franklin, Principal** - Casa Blanca Community School, Bapchule, Arizona, TCS, K-4 grade levels.
- **Olivia Penalzoa, Principal** - Mariano Lake Community School, Crownpoint, New Mexico, BIE, K-6 grade levels.

The following questions were provided to the presenters to prepare for this discussion.

1. What concerns do you have related to the provision of special education services at your school? How has BIE assisted you with the provision of those services?
2. Describe how your school builds trust between general and special education teachers for positive student outcomes.
3. How does your school use data to inform practice for transition services, instruction/interventions, activities, and collaboration?

2:30 - 2:45 PM | Break

2:45 - 3:00 PM | Public Comment Session #2 – see page 1 for public comment information.

3:00 - 3:15 PM | Board Reflection for the School Leader panel discussion

3:15 - 4:30 PM | BIE Advisory Board work

- Complete Old Business and New Business items if needed
- Work on identifying priority topics
 - What are the problems that could be creating barriers for BIE students with disabilities?
 - What information does the Committee need to understand the problem?
 - What is one issue or issues the Committee can focus on that seems to be at the core of the problem? Ask clarifying questions. Define the core problem(s)
 - Propose the next steps. What steps does the Committee need to take to address the core problem(s)?
- Develop the agenda for the June 22-23, 2023 and September 2023 board meeting (topics to be discussed, decide on presenters and their questions).

4:30 PM | Recess



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Day 2 – Friday, April 14, 2023	
TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)	
8:00 - 8:30 AM Roll Call	
8:30 - 8:45 AM Public Comment Session #3 – see page 1 for public comment information.	
<p>8:45 - 10:00 AM PANEL DISCUSSION - BIE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP –A four-day school schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A live discussion with two Superintendents who operate a 4-day week school schedule and have volunteered to discuss the benefits and challenges of a 4-day school schedule. <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Eric Gutierrez, Principal/Superintendent - Mescalero Apache School, Mescalero, New Mexico, TCS, K-12 Dr. Michelle Thomas, Superintendent, Turtle Mountain Community High School, Belcourt, North Dakota, TCS, 9-12 <p><i>The following questions were provided to the presenters to prepare for this discussion.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How has the 4-day school schedule affected teacher recruitment and retention? What has been the effect of the 4-day week on working parents? What are some of the childcare options utilized by parents who have always worked weekends? What has been the impact on the students? (E.g., students on free and reduced lunch, unstable home environments, special education, and related services, etc.) Has there been any impacts on the student's IEP receiving services from 5 days to 4 days. What changes were made? 	
10:00 - 10:15 AM Public Comment Session #4 – see page 1 for public comment information.	
10:15 - 10:30 AM Board Reflection for the School Leadership 4-day week school schedule	
10:30 - 10:45 PM Break	
10:45 - 4:30 PM Continue working on next meeting logistics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on identifying priority topics; Propose the next steps. What steps does the Committee need to take to address the core problem(s)? Develop and finalize the agenda for the June 22-23, 2023 and September 2023 board meetings (topics to be discussed, decide on presenters and their questions). 	
11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch (on your own)	
2:30 - 2:45 PM Break	
4:30 PM Adjourn	



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BIE Advisory Board Member Roster
FFY 2023

Member Name & Position	Term Length and Representing the Category for:
1. Norman Shawanokasic Chairperson	7/9/2020 to 7/9/2023 Tribal representatives or tribal organization representatives
2. Dr. Harvey Rude, Ph.D. Vice-Chairperson	7/9/2020 to 7/9/2023 Service Providers to Children with Disabilities
3. Leslie Finnearty Secretary	2/10/2022 to 2/10/2025 Teachers of Children with Disabilities
4. Dr. Robin Blitz, M.D. Board Member	7/9/2020 to 7/9/2023 State Interagency Coordinating Councils
5. Monica Cleveland Board Member	3/15/2023 to 3/15/2026 Parents or Guardians of Children with Disabilities
6. Dr. Perry Graves, Ph.D. Board Member	1/14/2021 to 1/14/2024 Teachers of Children with Disabilities
7. Gretchen Lehmann Board Member	2/10/2022 to 2/10/2025 Service Providers to Children with Disabilities
8. Pilar Peltier Board Member	2/10/2022 to 2/10/2025 BIE employee concerning the education of children with disabilities
9. Teryl Running Horse Board Member	1/14/2021 to 1/14/2024 Indian Persons with Disabilities
10. Brian Wagner Board Member	11/4/2022 to 11/4/2025 Tribal representatives or tribal organization representatives
11. Dr. Gretchen Wendell, Ed.D Board Member	2/10/2022 to 2/10/2025 Service Providers to children with disabilities