



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Indian Education  
1849 C Street NW, MIB-3610  
Washington, DC 20240

## BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

Crystal City Marriott, 1999 Richmond Highway, Arlington, Virginia  
In-Person and Online Meeting | September 21-22, 2023

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:** To provide board members and the public with information about various special education issues to improve special education and related services for children with disabilities within the BIE school system, and to meet the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for Indian children with disabilities. The BIE advisory panel provides policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held under the provisions of the Public Law 108- 446 IDEA, Part B, Sec. 611(a)(6); Sec. 612(a)(21)(A); and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. 10

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The public is encouraged to provide recommendations to improve special education and related services for students with disabilities within the BIE school system. Comments can be sent 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., Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004; or during the board meeting public commenting sessions, verbal comments are accepted as well as written comments in the chat box.

### MEETING INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

This meeting is open to the public and can be accessed online or in-person. The Eastern Daylight Time zone (EDT) will be used for this entire meeting. The BIE Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for: **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

Each meeting day starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 4:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Registration is required to access the board meeting. Click on the link to register in advance for this Zoom.Gov meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-2prTkjHQm8iBckGVMexfyIXaLrHlo>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Register once to attend either meeting date.

**JENNIFER L. DAVIS, DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER (DFO)** FOR THE BIE ADVISORY BOARD

JENNIFER.DAVIS@BIE.EDU | MOBILE PHONE: (202) 860-7845

THE DFO SERVES AS THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENT FOR ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE BOARD'S ACTIVITIES.



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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

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**8:00 AM - 8:30 AM**      **Roll Call, Old Business, New Business**  
If a presenter is not available, the Board will work on the [2023 Annual Report](#).

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**      **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Valerie C. Williams, OSEP Director or Designee**

**PRESENTER QUESTIONS:**

1. How can OSEP more directly support the BIE’s work in providing special education services that result in positive outcomes for children with disabilities across the BIE school system and how do the OSEP-funded technical assistance centers improve special education services for the BIE?
2. What is your perception of progress the BIE has been making in the areas of equity and data collection and how can OSEP support promoting equity in student access to educational resources, opportunities, and welcoming environments?
3. How do you view the progress of the BIE in addressing performance accountability expectations?
4. What collaborations currently exist between OSEP and the BIE and how do you see this developing or changing in the future?
5. Do you have opportunities to coordinate grant program priorities with the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education?

**9:30 AM - 9:45 AM**      **BOARD REFLECTION - OSERS/OSEP PRESENTATION**

**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**      **BREAK**

**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**      **BOARD WILL WORK ON THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND CONTINUE 11:15 - 11:30 AM**

**11:00 AM - 11:15 AM**      **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #1** (SEE PAGE 1 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION)

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**      **LUNCH**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**      **BIE Office of the Director, Tony Dearman, or Designee**

**PRESENTER QUESTIONS:**

1. Are there any updates on rural school internet access? Include any challenges and potential resolves to the issues from BIE.
2. Provide updates regarding the workforce plan and include a current BIE Organizational Chart.



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3. Why has the ability of BIE operated schools, to be directly involved in the hiring of staff and advertising of positions, transferred from the local level to the BIE Human Resources Office?
4. What is the progress on the BIE and U.S. Department of Education collaboration?
5. Provide any ideas and/or suggestions you may have when looking at the long-term picture of retaining qualified educators (Teachers and Administrators).
6. Describe the concerns, related to BIE, that have been identified over the past year. Provide an update from your perspective as the Director of the Bureau of Indian Education.
7. What work has been done since the last tribal consultation in 2021 on updating the Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) regulations and how will that be accomplished?

**2:00 PM - 2:15 PM**      **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #2**

**2:15 PM - 2:30 PM**      **BREAK**

**2:30 PM - 2:45 PM**      **BOARD REFLECTION – BIE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR PRESENTATION**

**2:45 PM - 3:30 PM**      **BIE Human Resources Office, Jackie Shamblin, Human Resources Officer, or Designee**

**PRESENTER QUESTIONS:**

1. During our board meetings we consistently hear from Bureau Operated School (BOS) administrators that the delays in the hiring process cost schools qualified hires. Can greater responsibility be provided to local school hiring authorities?
2. Are there efforts to reduce unnecessary personal information on the application?
3. How does the BIE provide services when a BOS is unable to fill a vacancy? Is there a plan to continue to provide services using mandatory detailing of professionals from other locations or are other options being explored?
4. What incentives might be available to recruit and retain qualified personnel in the BIE system?

**3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**      **Work on unfinished business, next meeting logistics or the 2023 Annual Report.**

**4:30 PM**                      **RECESS**



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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

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**8:00 AM - 8:15 AM**

**Roll Call**

**8:15 AM - 9:15 AM**

**Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA)/BIE Special Education Program | Margo Delaune, Associate Deputy Director and Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist**

**PRESENTER QUESTIONS:**

1. Provide an update on the DPA from IDEA and the ESSA.
2. Provide an update on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations report.
3. What is the status of local school monitoring by DPA?
4. Provide an update on the determinations that were recently issued to the BIE funded schools.
5. Provide an update on the Interactive Data Workshop (IDW) and potential future geographical locations?
6. What is the completion status of Part B IDEA Applications? How does BIE meet the needs of students with disabilities who attend a school that has not submitted an approved Part B plan?
7. What are the trend lines on the special education child count over the past three years? What are the implications on funding?

**9:15 PM - 9:30 AM**

**BOARD REFLECTION -DPA PRESENTATION**

**9:30 AM - 9:45 AM**

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #3 (SEE PAGE 1 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION)**

**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**

**BREAK**

**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**Associate Deputy Director (ADD) Regions for Bureau Operated Schools (BOS), Navajo Schools (BOS & TCS) and Tribally Controlled Schools (TCS)/Special Education Programs.**

- **10:00 AM - 10:45 AM | TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS** - DR. CHERI POITRA, ASSOCIATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & JOANN FIELDS, EDUCATION SPECIALIST
- **10:45 AM - 11:30 AM | NAVAJO SCHOOLS** - CHERYL JOHNSON, SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR
- **11:30 AM - 12:15 AM | BUREAU OPERATED SCHOOLS** - GLORIA YEPA, EDUCATION SPECIALIST & KATHARINE FORD, EDUCATION SPECIALIST



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**PRESENTER QUESTIONS:**

1. What services do you provide for BIE funded schools?
2. Please provide an update on the 2022-2023 school year. Discuss the successes, challenges, ongoing goals, and other items that would be pertinent to the Advisory Board.
3. What type of activities do you intend to provide for your region in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year?
4. What were your ISEP review findings regarding special education?

**12:15 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Working Lunch to include:**

- **12:15 – 12:30 PM - PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #4**
- **12:30 – 12:45 PM - BOARD REFLECTION - FOR ADD REGIONS**
- **12:45 – 1:15 PM – CONTINUE LUNCH BREAK**

**1:15 PM - 3:30 PM**

**Work on and finalize the 2023 annual report by the end of today.**

**2:00 PM - 2:15 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Work on next meeting logistics (develop presenter questions) \***

**4:30 PM**

**ADJOURN**

*\*The next meeting for the BIE Advisory Board is being planned for January 18-19, 2024, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The facility for the meeting site will be determined at a later date.*



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## BIE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ROSTER

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**NORMAN SHAWANOKASIC, CHAIRPERSON** | TERM: 7/10/2023 TO 7/10/2026 | STATE: WISCONSIN  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

**PILAR PELTIER, VICE-CHAIRPERSON** | TERM: 2/10/2022 TO 2/10/2025 | STATE: OREGON  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** BIA EMPLOYEES CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**TERYL RUNNING HORSE, SECRETARY** | TERM: 1/14/2021 TO 1/14/2024 | STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** INDIAN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**MONICA CLEVELAND, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 3/15/2023 TO 3/15/2026 | STATE: ARIZONA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** INDIAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**LESLIE FINNEARTY, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 2/10/2022 TO 2/10/2025 | STATE: NORTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** TEACHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**DR. PERRY GRAVES, PH.D., BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 1/14/2021 TO 1/14/2024 | STATE: KANSAS  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** TEACHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**RACHEL HARRISON, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 4/18/2023 TO 4/18/2026 | STATE: OKLAHOMA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** TEACHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**WENDY KROUPA, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 4/18/2023 TO 4/18/2026 | STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS

**GRETCHEN LEHMANN, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 2/10/2022 TO 0/10/2025 | STATE: NORTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**BRIAN WAGNER, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: TERM: 11/4/2022 TO 11/4/2025 | STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

**GRETCHEN WENDELL, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 2/10/2022 TO 0/10/2025 | STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA  
**REPRESENTING CATEGORY:** LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS

**JENNIFER L. DAVIS, DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER (DFO)** FOR THE BIE ADVISORY BOARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
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BIE WEBSITE, ADVISORY BOARD SECTION - [HTTPS://WWW.BIE.EDU/LANDING-PAGE/SPECIAL-EDUCATION](https://www.bie.edu/landing-page/special-education)