October 11, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to invite you to participate in additional Tribal listening sessions on the Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) and the ISEP student transportation funding formulas and respective distribution methodologies.

During the ISEP Tribal listening session, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will review with you 25 CFR Part 39—Indian School Equalization Program. We are highly interested in hearing from you on the areas of concern on practices that need to be improved.

Below are some of the specific ISEP areas in which we will seek your input:

- Subpart B—Indian School Equalization Formula (ISEF)
- factors used in base and supplemental funding methodologies;
- gifted and talented programs;
- language development programs;
- small school adjustments;
- geographic isolation adjustments;
- ISEF base academic funding factors and for grades kindergarten through 12; and
- base residential funding factors for grades 1 through grade 12.

During the ISEP transportation listening session, BIE will provide an overview of 25 CFR Part 39, Subpart G—Student Transportation, and will seek your input on specific sections of the proposed regulatory amendments.

Below are some of the specific ISEP transportation areas in which we will seek your input:

- non-curricular transportation expenses;
- non-ISEP student eligibility;
- development of a contingency fund; and
- definition of the various road types outlined in the regulation.

These listening sessions are two of several planned sessions that will seek additional input on opportunities for improvements and consider proposed regulatory amendments. These listening sessions will be held in conjunction with the 54th Annual National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention & Trade Show, scheduled at the following date, time(s), and location listed on the chart below:
**Listening Session** | **DATE**                  | **TIME (Local Time)**         | **LOCATION**                                                                 |
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<tr>
<td>Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP)</td>
<td>Thursday, October 19, 2023</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (MDT)</td>
<td>National Indian Education Association Convention Anasazi Theater Albuquerque Convention Center 401 2nd Street NW Albuquerque, NM 87102</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISEP Transportation</td>
<td>Thursday, October 19, 2023</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (MDT)</td>
<td>National Indian Education Association Convention Anasazi Theater Albuquerque Convention Center 401 2nd Street NW Albuquerque, NM 87102</td>
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For additional details, please visit our BIE Consultation & Initiatives webpage at: [www.bie.edu/landing-page/consultations-initiatives](http://www.bie.edu/landing-page/consultations-initiatives).

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Your written comments are welcomed on the ISEP and ISEP Transportation program by the comment deadline of December 31, 2023.

Please **E-MAIL** your comments to: consultation@bia.gov – SUBJECT LINE: ISEP and ISEP Transportation regulations

**OR** send your comments by **POSTAL MAIL** to:

Sharon Pinto  
Deputy Bureau Director  
Bureau of Indian Education Building 2 - Suite 352  
1011 Indian School Rd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104  
SUBJECT: ISEP and ISEP Transportation regulations

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Emmalani Longenecker, Special Assistant, School Operations, by email at emmalani.longenecker@bie.edu, or by telephone at (505) 563-5386.

Sincerely,

**TONY DEARMAN**

Tony L. Dearman  
Director
cc: Sharon Pinto, Deputy Bureau Director, Division of School Operations
    Hankie Ortiz, Associate Deputy Director (ADD), Bureau Operated Schools
    Cherie Poitra, ADD, Tribally Controlled Schools
    Emily Arviso, ADD, Navajo Schools
    Margo DeLaune, ADD, Division of Performance and Accountability
    Dr. Carmelia Becenti, Acting Chief Academic Officer