



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

NATIONAL INDIAN PROGRAMS TRAINING CENTER (NIPTC), 1011 INDIAN SCHOOL RD NW, ROOM 234,  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87104 | IN-PERSON & ONLINE MEETING | APRIL 24-25, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
(MDT)

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:** To meet the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for Indian children with disabilities. 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. 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. During the board meeting verbal comments can be made during public comment sessions, and written comments can be provided in the chat box.

## Meeting Registration

This meeting is open to the public and can be accessed online. The Mountain Daylight Time zone (MDT) will be used for this entire meeting. The BIE Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for: **THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025, and Friday, APRIL 25, 2025**, each meeting starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM (MDT). Registration is required. Click on the link below to register in advance for this Zoom.Gov meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/sukNoiX5RBSDkyapW0uDCg>

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.



## DAY 1 - THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

---

This agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

### Public Comments

**Comments can be made any time during the board meeting, April 24-25, 2025. Comments can be provided verbally via webinar or in writing using the chat box.**

Providing comments allows an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Board.

Comments should be related to topics regarding Indian students with disabilities within the BIE school system. The public can contribute their viewpoints on improvements, corrections or what is working in a school or within the BIE school system. **Guidelines for public comments:**

- Provide your first and last name, position title and the School/Organization you are representing.
- Limit your comments to three (3) minutes.
- Please respect confidentially. Do not mention names of individuals (students or staff).

**8:00 - 8:15 AM**      **Roll Call, New Business, Old Business**

**8:15 - 9:30 AM**      **BIE Central Office - Administration Change Forecast**

#### **Presenter Questions:**

1. What are the current or pending education or Interior changes?
2. Forecast on the effect on all BIE students and specifically services for students with disabilities.
3. Assuming a budget has been passed, can you predict how it will affect BIE funded schools?
4. What is the status of the BIE's work on the President's Executive Order requiring the Secretary of Interior to establish a voucher program for "all children" eligible to attend a BIE funded school.
  - How will the plan affect the students who are IDEA eligible?

**9:30 - 9:40 AM**      **BIE Central Office – Open Dialogue with Advisory Board and guest comments**

**9:40 - 9:50 AM**      **Break**



## DAY 1 - THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

---

This agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

**9:50 - 10:50 AM**      **Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA)/BIE Special Education Program | Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist**

**The following topics will be addressed:**

1. Strengthening the relationship between the BIE and the other State Education Agencies
2. 2025 BIE Summer Trainings
3. Fiscal and Programmatic Monitoring Findings
4. Special Education Policy and Procedure updates
5. FFY 2023 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR)

**10:50 - 11:00 AM**      **BIE Special Education Program - Open Dialogue with Advisory Board and guest comments**

**11:00 - 12:00 PM**      **Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), Albuquerque, NM - Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer**

To address the challenges of preparing educators for schools serving significant numbers of Native American students in Bureau funded schools.

**Presenter Questions:**

1. Options for scholarships and incentives for native graduates to come back and serve in BIE funded schools
2. What curriculums are currently available- what programs are available for students with disabilities?
3. What transition and 504 services do they offer currently?

**12:00 - 12:10 PM**      **HINU and SIPI - Open Dialogue with Advisory Board and guest comments**

**12:10 - 1:30 PM**      **Lunch**



## DAY 1 - THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

---

This agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>1:30 - 2:30 PM</b> | <b>Overview of Blindness and Visual Impairment - Garrison Tsinajinie, PhD</b><br><b>Assistant Professor of Practice, Program Director of Visual Impairment</b><br><b>Specialization   University of Arizona, Department of Disability and</b><br><b>Psychoeducational Studies, Tucson, AZ 85721-0069</b><br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Overview of Blindness and Visual Impairment (incidence rates, etc.)</li><li>2. Where to find national resources for children with visual impairment</li><li>3. Information about virtual resources (direct service provision &amp; resources to support staff)</li><li>4. Expanded core curriculum</li><li>5. Support/resources for parents</li><li>6. What would you like to see the board address in their annual report</li></ol> |
| <b>2:30 - 2:40 PM</b> | <b>Visual Impairment - Open Dialogue with Advisory Board and guest comments</b>   |
| <b>2:40 - 2:50 PM</b> | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| <b>2:50 - 4:00 PM</b> | <b>Advisory Board Work Session. Public comments accepted any time during this work session.</b><br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work on priorities.</li><li>• Work on July meeting (one-day, online). Meeting logistics, draft agenda, identify presenters with questions.</li><li>• Work on last meeting for FFY 2024 (fall meeting). Meeting logistics, draft agenda, identify presenters with questions.</li></ul>  |
| <b>4:00 PM</b>        | <b>Recess</b>   |



## DAY 2 - FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

This agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

### Public Comments

**Comments can be made any time during the board meeting, April 24-25, 2025. Comments can be provided verbally via webinar or in writing using the chat box.**

Providing comments allows an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Board.

Comments should be related to topics regarding Indian students with disabilities within the BIE school system. The public can contribute their viewpoints on improvements, corrections or what is working in a school or within the BIE school system. **Guidelines for public comments:**

- Provide your first and last name, position title and the School/Organization you are representing.
- Limit your comments to three (3) minutes.
- Please respect confidentially. Do not mention names of individuals (students or staff).

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

**Roll Call**

**8:15 - 4:00 PM**

**All day Advisory Board Work Session. Public comments accepted any time during this work session.**

- Work on priorities.
- Work on July meeting (one-day, online). Meeting date, logistics, finalize agenda and identify presenters with questions.
- Work on last meeting for FFY 2024 (fall meeting). Meeting dates, logistics, develop draft agenda and identify presenters with questions
- Breaks (15 minutes) – 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, as needed.

**11:30 - 1:00 PM**

**Lunch**

**4:00 PM**

**Adjourn**



## BIE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

### 2024-2025

---

**NORMAN SHAWANOKASIC, CHAIRPERSON** | TERM: 7/10/2025 TO 7/10/2026 | STATE: WISCONSIN  
REPRESENTING CATEGORY: TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

**DR. ELIZABETH YOUNCE, VICE-CHAIR** | TERM: 9/14/2023 TO 9/14/2026 | STATE: NORTH CAROLINA  
REPRESENTING CATEGORY: LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS

**LEON K. REVAL, SECRETARY** | TERM: 9/14/2023 TO 9/14/2026 | STATE: NEW MEXICO  
REPRESENTING CATEGORY: INDIAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**DR. JANET SLOWMAN-CHEE, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 9/14/2023 TO 9/14/2026 | STATE: ARIZONA  
REPRESENTING CATEGORY: INDIAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN 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

**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

**MELANIE C. STAR, BOARD MEMBER** | TERM: 5/20/2024 TO 5/20/2027 | STATE: ARIZONA  
REPRESENTING CATEGORY: BIA EMPLOYEES CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATION OF 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

**JENNIFER L. DAVIS, DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER (DFO)**

FOR THE BIE ADVISORY BOARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

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

BIE Website, Advisory Board section <https://www.bie.edu/landing-page/special-education>

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