



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

MEETING LOCATION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, SOUTH PENTHOUSE, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 1849 C STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON DC 20240 | IN-PERSON & ONLINE MEETING | SEPTEMBER 25, 2025, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (EDT) | SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (EDT)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting is to fulfill the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) as they relate to **Indian children with disabilities**. The meeting aims to: Provide Board members and the public with important information regarding special education issues; Promote the improvement of special education and related services for children with disabilities within the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school system; and support the BIE Advisory Board in offering policy guidance on special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

**Federal Mandates:** This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 108-446, **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004**, Part B, Sec. 611(a)(6); Sec. 612(a)(21)(A). The meeting is also subject to the regulations of the **Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)**, 5 U.S.C. 10.

**Public Comments:** The public is invited to provide comments **during the Open Dialogue and Board Work Sessions** scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2025, and Friday, September 26, 2025. These sessions provide an opportunity for the public to share input with the Board regarding Indian students with disabilities within the BIE school system. Comments may include suggestions for improvement, identification of concerns, or acknowledgment of effective practices within individual schools or the broader BIE system. We encourage respectful, constructive participation and appreciate your contributions to the dialogue on supporting students with disabilities.

- **Public Comment Guidelines:** (1) Please provide your first and last name, position/title, and the school or organization you are representing; (2) Limit your comments to 3 minutes; (3) Do not mention individual names (students or staff) to maintain confidentiality.
- **Submitting Comments:** During the meeting comments may be submitted verbally via webinar or in writing through the chat box. At any time comments can be sent to Jennifer Davis, Designated Federal Officer (DFO): Email: [Jennifer.davis@bie.edu](mailto: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.

The DFO serves as the government's agent for all matters related to the Board's activities.

**Meeting Registration is Required:** One registration is required to attend one or both days. Register in advance to attend the meeting virtually by clicking the link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details about joining the meeting.

[https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/oZH1F0KHR\\_G6rEMDp6TjoA](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/oZH1F0KHR_G6rEMDp6TjoA)



**Meeting Information:** This meeting is open to the public and may be attended either in person or virtually. The meeting will follow the Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) zone for all scheduled times: Thursday, September 25, 2025, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (EDT) and Friday, September 26, 2025, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (EDT).

**Meeting Location:** This meeting can be accessed virtually or if attending in-person the location site is at 1849 C Street NW, South Penthouse room, 7th floor, between the 7200 and 7300 corridors, Washington, D.C.

**Security Procedures:** When visiting the U.S. Department of the Interior (Stewart Lee Udall Building) all visitors must enter the Udall Building through the C Street lobby, which is located on C Street, between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W. This link provides information when visiting the Department of the Interior building <https://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum/Plan-a-Visit>

All individuals over 18 years of age are required to present a valid, government-issued photo ID to enter the building. All visitors are subject to security screenings, including bag and parcel checks. All visitors must comply with building procedures and/or restrictions as posted at the building entrance.

## Day 1 – Thursday, September 25, 2025

**8:00 - 8:30 AM**      **Roll call, New Business, Old Business**

**8:30 - 9:20**      **Meet & Greet**

This session is for BIE Advisory Board members, the Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs (AS-IA), the BIE Central Office, and the Division of Performance & Accountability (DPA). It will provide an opportunity to connect, meet key team members, and build relationships beyond the structured meeting setting. The DPA and Board members will provide a brief presentation about the Advisory Board’s mission, current priorities, and collaborative efforts to support the education of Native students with disabilities

1. Summarize the roles, responsibilities and purpose of the BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children.
2. Summarizing FFY 2023 and FFY 2024 Annual Reports.
3. Do you have any questions for the Board?

**Open Dialogue** (9:20 - 9:30 AM) with the Board. Public comments open.

**9:45 - 10:30**      **BIE Central Office**

Presenter Question:



## Day 1 – Thursday, September 25, 2025

1. Is there anything pertinent that the board should be aware of since the April 24-25, 2025, Advisory Board meeting? Some topics may include:
  - Any current or pending education or DOI changes that may specifically affect students with disabilities.
  - Language Immersion grants (general information, continuation resolution etc.)
  - Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families (Executive Order 14191)
  - Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) reauthorization

**Open Dialogue** (10:30 - 10:40) with the Board. Public comments open.

**10:45 - 11:25 AM**     **Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA) | BIE Special Education Program** | Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist

Presenter Questions:

1. Office will Provide updates about the FFY 2023 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) - Presentation to stakeholders on changing the targets for high school participation on the stateside assessment (Indicator 3).
2. Provide updates about the BIE Special Education Policy and Procedures, including roll out (training, technical assistance, implementation).
3. Provide summary about the 2025 BIE Online Summer Training

**Open Dialogue** (11:25 - 11:40 AM) with the Board. Public comments open.

**11:40 - 1:00 PM**     Lunch Break

**1:00 - 1:45 PM**     **Panel Discussion** – Focus on how your work aligns with the needs of native students with disabilities. Provide an overview of your work, current challenges, recent achievements and recommendations regarding students with disabilities.

- Dr. LaRonda Lugo, Superintendent, Santa Rosa Ranch School (K-8), Sells, AZ
- Sharei Ricketts, Superintendent, Little Wound School (k-12), Kyle, SD
- Holly Traynor, Special Education Director, Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting School (K-8), Sault Sainte Marie, MI,

Presenter Questions:

1. Describe how your school builds trust between general and special education teachers for positive student outcomes.



## Day 1 – Thursday, September 25, 2025

2. How is student progress being measured and reported in a way that reflects both academic and functional growth for students?
3. How is that data shared with stakeholders (teachers, parents etc.)?
4. How is the school implementing their approaches to recruitment and retention for educators? Describe what is working and your ideas for improvement.
5. How can the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Division of Performance and Accountability (DPA) and the Education Resource Center's (ERC's) support your school in special education?
6. How is professional development being addressed for all educators within the school? What additional support is provided for the school staff? How can the BIE, DPA and the ERC's support your school in special education?

**Open Dialogue** (1:45 - 1:55 AM) with the Board. Public comments open.

**1:55 –2:10 PM**

Break

**2:10 –2:55 PM**

**U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs funded Technical Assistance Centers (Part D) | National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI)** | Cesar D'Agord, Senior Consultant, Special Education Policy and Practice; and Nicole Garcia, Senior Program Associate, Special Education Policy and Practice

Presenter Questions:

1. Focus on how your work aligns with the needs of Native students with disabilities. Provide an overview of your work, current challenges, recent achievements and recommendations regarding students with disabilities.
2. What major changes have occurred that affect the work and partnerships?

**Open Dialogue** (2:55 - 3:05 PM) with the Board. Public comments open.

**2:55 –4:00 PM**

**Advisory Board Work Session** - Work on annual report. Public comments accepted any time during this work session.

**4:00 PM**

Adjourn



## DAY 2 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

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

**8:15 - 10:00 AM**      **Advisory Board Work Session** - Work on and finalizing the FFY 2024 annual report; Work on the next board meeting logistics, agenda, and identify presenters with questions. Public comments accepted any time during this work session.

**10:00 - 10:15 AM**      Break

**10:15 – 1:45 AM**      **Associate Deputy Director (ADD) Regions Special Education Programs:** Bureau Operated Schools (BOS), Tribally Controlled Schools (TCS), and Navajo Schools (BOS and TCS).

- ADD BOS Presentation      10:15 – 11:00 | **Open Dialogue** 11:00 – 11:10
- ADD Navajo Presentation      11:10 – 11:55 | **Open Dialogue** 11:55 – 12:05
- **Lunch Break**      **12:05 - 1:00 PM**
- ADD TCS Presentation      1:00 – 1:45 | **Open Dialogue** 1:45 – 1:55

- Gloria Yepa and Katharine Ford, Education Program Specialists (special education) | BOS
- Teresa Ramone-Wilson, Education Program Specialist (special education) | Navajo Schools (BOS and TCS)
- Connie Albert and Dr. Berdina Tsosie, Education Program Administrators (EPAs) | TCS

Focus on how your work aligns with the needs of native students with disabilities. Provide an overview of your work, current challenges, recent achievements and recommendations regarding students with disabilities.

### Presenter Questions:

1. How is student progress being measured and reported in a way that reflects both academic and functional growth for students?
2. How is that data shared with stakeholders (teachers, parents etc.)?

**12:05 - 1:00 PM**      Lunch Break

**1:55 - 2:10 PM**      Break

**2:10 - 4:00 PM**      **Advisory Board Work Session** - Finalize the FFY 2024 annual report; Finalize the next board meeting logistics, agenda, and identify presenters with questions. Public comments accepted any time during this work session. (Break 3:00-3:15 pm)

**4:00 PM**      Adjourn



# BIE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

## School Year 2025-2026

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**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.