



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: National Indian programs Training Center, Room 234, 1011 Indian School Rd., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

MEETING DATE & TIME: April 30, 2026, 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM (MDT) and May 1, 2026, 8:00AM – 4:00 PM (MDT) | This is an in-person and virtual meeting

MEETING PURPOSE: 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 30, 2026, 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM MDT and Friday, May 1, 2026, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM MDT. Registration is required. Click on the link below to register in advance for this Zoom.Gov meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Register once to attend either meeting date.

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/ADahVSYgQm2KnSdJZPOmtg>



AGENDA

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

Day 1 – Thursday, April 30, 2026	
Time	Agenda Item
ADVISORY BOARD TRAINING 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM MDT	
For BIE Advisory Board Members	
08:00 AM	Roll call
08:05 AM	Introduction of DPA Supervisors and Board Members
08:20 AM	Advisory Board Orientation:
11:00 AM	<p>Presenter: John D. Copenhaver, Program Director Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of our mission, roles, responsibilities, and expectations, ensuring all members are well-informed and prepared to contribute effectively.
9:15 AM	Break 9:15 – 9:25 (10-minutes)
9:25 AM	
11:00 AM	DOI Ethics Training
11:30 AM	<p>Presenter: Desiree J. (Arroyo) Sanchez, Assistant Ethics Counselor U.S. Department of the Interior Ethics Office Office of the Solicitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of key ethical rules, standards of conduct, and responsibilities to help ensure integrity, accountability, and compliance for all board members to work effectively.
11:30 AM	Federal Advisory Committee Act Training
12:00 PM	<p>Presenter: Jennifer Heindl, Attorney Advisor U.S. Department of the Interior General Legal Services Office of the Solicitor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) governing how federal agencies create and use advisory committees. Its core purpose is transparency, accountability, and balanced public input.
12:00 PM	Break 12:00 – 12:25 PM MDT



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING BEGINS AT 12:30 PM MDT	
Day 1 – Thursday, April 30, 2026	
Time	Item
12:30 PM 01:00 PM	Roll call, Board Introductions, New business, Old business
01:00 PM 02:00 PM	<p>BIE Early Childhood Programs/Family and Child Education (FACE) Program – Klarissa Thomas, Eastern Region ECE Director Sovereignty in Indian Education Office 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20240</p> <p>Presenter Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you seen any trends (an increase or a decrease) in the number of children identified over the last 5 years? • What are the strengths and challenges for your work, specifically HHS’s strategic plan regarding developmental disabilities? • Is there anything you would like the advisory board to focus on in our recommendations? <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What does the future of HeadStart and FACE look like?</p>
02:00 PM 02:15 PM	<p>Public Comments can be provided verbally via webinar or in writing using the chat box. Comments should be related to topics regarding Indian students with disabilities within the BIE school system, contribute viewpoints on improvements, corrections or what is working in a school or within the BIE school system.</p> <p>Guidelines for comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your first and last name, position title, school or organization you are representing. • Limit your comments to three (3) minutes. • Respect confidentiality. Do not mention names of individuals (students or staff). <p>Break - 2:15 - 02:30 PM</p>
02:30 PM 03:30 PM	<p>DPA/IDEA Special Education Program Updates - Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIE Special Education Handbook rollout update • The FFY 2024 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Update <p>Other Special Education Updates</p>
03:30 PM 04:00 PM	If necessary continue with New Business, Old Business, then into Board work time – Wrap up tasks and prepare to stop for the day.
04:00 PM	Adjourn



Day 2 – Friday, May 1, 2026	
Time	Item
08:00 AM 08:30 AM	Roll call, new business, old business
09:45 AM 04:00 PM	Board work time - Work on priorities, Work on the next meeting logistics, draft agenda, identify presenters with questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break time – 11:00 PM, 2:30 PM or as needed
	Public Comments – Comments can be provided any time during the Board work Time, 9:45 AM - 4:00 PM, MDT. Comments can be provided verbally via webinar or using the chat box. Refer to guidance provided above. Guidelines for comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide your first and last name, position title, school or organization you are representing.• Limit your comments to three (3) minutes.• Respect confidentiality. Do not mention names of individuals (students or staff).
12:00 PM 01:30 PM	Lunch (on your own)
04:00 PM	Adjourn

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



BIE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Board Member Name	Residency State	Term	Representing Category
Norman Shawanokasic Chairperson	Wisconsin	7/10/2023 7/10/2026	Tribal Representative or Tribal Organization Representatives
Dr. Elizabeth S. Younce Vice-Chair	North Carolina	9/14/2023 9/14/2026	Local Education Officials
Leon K. Reval Secretary	New Mexico	9/14/2023 9/14/2026	Indian Parents or Guardians of Children with Disabilities
Katinee G. Chavez Board Member	Wisconsin	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	Indian Person with Disabilities
Heather A. Church Board Member	Michigan	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	Local Education Officials
Mariah L. Crow Board Member	North Carolina	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	Service providers to children with disabilities
Season Goodpasture Board Member	California	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	State Interagency Coordinating Councils
Taryn C. Jim Board Member	Wyoming	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	BIE employees concerned with the education of children with disabilities
Dr. Janet Slowman Board Member	Arizona	9/14/2023 9/14/2026	Indian Parents or Guardians of Children with Disabilities
Dr. Paula Sorrell Seanez Board Member	Arizona	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	Tribal Representative or Tribal Organization Representatives
Joshua L. Shumak Board Member	South Carolina	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	State Education Officials
Melanie C. Star Board Member	North Dakota	5/20/2024 5/20/2027	BIE Employees Concerned with the Education of Children with Disabilities
Amber Jade Tyner Board Member	California	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	State Education Officials
Jeron Velasco Board Member	Arizona	4/24/2026 4/24/2029	Teachers of children with disabilities

Two new board members are scheduled to start in September 2026, coinciding with the expiration of two current board members' terms.