



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, 1011 Indian School Rd., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

MEETING DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (MDT) and Friday, September 11, 2026, 8:00AM – 4:30 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, September 10, 2026, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (MDT) and Friday, September 11, 2026, 8:00AM – 4:30 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/3Rm19uumRAeHIQJnzx2MQ>



AGENDA

Agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

Day 1 – Thursday, September 10, 2026	
Time	Agenda Item
8:00 - 8:30 AM MDT	Roll call, New business, Old business
8:30 - 9:30 AM	BIE Special Education Updates Dr. Eugene Thompson, Supervisory Education Specialist Program Overview: The BIE Special Education Program, part of the Division of Performance and Accountability, supports BIE-operated, Tribally Controlled, and Navajo schools nationwide. Its goal is to ensure students with disabilities receive proper services and achieve positive outcomes in line with federal and state laws like IDEA. The program offers technical assistance, leadership, and monitoring to improve educational results for these students. Special Education Bureau of Indian Education Questions/ Requests: 1. Review SY 2025-2026 Fiscal and Programmatic special education findings. 2. Review FFY 2024 Determinations - what do the most recent State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) indicator data reveal about progress and areas of need? 3. Provide overview of the BIE/DPA's Summer 2026 Interactive Special Education Data Academy
9:30 - 9:40 AM	Board Reflection with Public Comments The board can engage in reflective discussion following the presentation, and public comments are welcomed as part of the dialogue. Public Comment Guidance Comments may be shared verbally during the webinar or in the chat box. Please keep comments focused on Indian students with disabilities in the BIE school system, including suggestions for improvements, corrections, or successful practices. Guidelines for comments: • Provide your first and last name, title, school or organization. • Limit comments to 3 minutes. • Respect confidentially. Do not mention names of students or staff.



Day 1 – Thursday, September 10, 2026

Agenda Item

9:40 - 10:00 AM Break

10:00 - 11:00 AM MDT **BIE School Operations/ Division of Budget and Finance**

Nicholas Brown, Budget Analyst

Presentation Request:

The **Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP)** is a federal funding mechanism administered by the BIE to provide uniform direct support to Bureau-operated and tribally operated day and boarding schools. It is authorized under multiple laws, including the Snyder Act, Indian Reorganization Act, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Presenter will provide:

1. A general overview about ISEP
2. The role and purpose of ISEP in supporting BIE funded schools
3. The scope of ISEP, including the students and schools it serves
4. The process and methodology for determining ISEP funding, with attention to relevant factors
5. How funds are distributed to schools, including any requirements or limitations regarding their use
6. Current updates, challenges, or changes impacting ISEP funding, if applicable

11:00 AM - 11:10 PM **Board Reflection with Public Comments regarding the ISEP presentation**

The board can engage in reflective discussion following the presentation, and public comments are welcomed as part of the dialogue.

11:10 AM - 11:30 PM **Board Work Session**

- Prepare to work on next meeting logistics – September agenda

11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch





Day 1 – Thursday, September 10, 2026

Agenda Item

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Board Work Session

- Work on next meeting logistics – September agenda
- Work on annual report priorities
- Review next steps
- Take breaks as needed

4:00 PM

Adjourn

AGENDA

Agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

Day 2 – Friday, September 11, 2026

Time

Agenda Item

8:00 - 08:30 AM MDT

Roll call, new business, old business

8:30 - 11:30 AM

Public Comments

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Public comments are any time during today's board work sessions (8:30 AM – 11:30 AM MDT; and 1:00 – 4:00 PM MDT)

Public Comment Guidance

Comments may be shared verbally during the webinar or in the chat box. Please keep comments focused on Indian students with disabilities in the BIE school system, including suggestions for improvements, corrections, or successful practices.

Guidelines for comments:

- Provide your first and last name, title, school or organization.
- Limit comments to 3 minutes.
- Respect confidentiality. Do not mention names of students or staff.



AGENDA

Agenda is based on the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) zone

Day 2 – Friday, September 11, 2026	
Time	Agenda Item
8:30 - 11:30 AM	Board Work - Review, discuss and develop the next meeting logistics and the January 2027 meeting agenda - Work on the FFY 2026 annual report - Review action items, responsibilities, and next steps - Breaks taken as needed
11:30 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Public Comments Public comments are accepted any time during today’s board work sessions (8:30 AM – 11:30 AM MDT; and 1:00 – 4:00 PM MDT)
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Board Work - Work on and finalize the January 2027 agenda - Work on and finalize the FFY 2026 annual report
11:30 - 1:00 PM	Adjourn

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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 FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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



CULTURE



KNOWLEDGE



LEADERSHIP