



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Education
2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 122
Bloomington, MN 55425

IN REPLY REFER TO: HBE Tribal Consultation on Risk Assessment

SUBJECT: Summary Report for the Hopi Board of Education (HBE) Consultation on the Acquisition, Assistance, and Asset Policy (DOI-AAAP) Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist and the Financial Capability Questionnaire Instrument.

REFERENCE: Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) dated April 24, 2026

Overview

On May 26, 2026, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) held an online Tribal Consultation with Hopi Tribal Leaders, HBE and representatives from the Hopi Community to discuss using the DOI-AAAP Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist and Financial Capability Questionnaire form for evaluating applicants' risk under 2 CFR 200.206(b). BIE staff provided logistical and transcription support.

Communication

The DTLL was distributed to Tribal Leaders, Hopi Tribal members and Indian education stakeholders on Friday, April 24. The broadcast announcement included a link to a registration portal allowing individuals to pre-register for the Tribal Consultation. Registration was available through TEAMS platform and the platform sent a reminder message to those that registered one hour prior to the Tribal Consultation.

Participants

FACILITATORS

- Tony Dearman, Director, BIE
- Dr. Berdina Tsosie, Education Program Administrator, BIE
- Dawn Nuvayestewa, Grants Management Specialist, BIE
- Randal Joe, Education Program Specialist, Native Language, Culture and History, BIE
- Kimberly Smith, Education Program Specialist, BIE

TYPE OF ATTENDEE

The webinars had 29 virtual participants with attendance reporting from the TEAMS platform. The attendance breakdown is provided below:

Participant Category	Online
BIE Staff	10
General Public	9
HBE	5
Hopi Community Member	3
Hopi Tribal Council	2
Total Participants	29

Tribal Consultation Presentation and Questions

Director Tony Dearman thanked attendees, and Mr. Randall Joe opened the Tribal Consultation with a blessing. Dr. Berdina Tsosie and Ms. Dawn Nuvayestewa discussed the Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist and Financial Capability Questionnaire, noting their impact on the risk assessment used to assess special conditions on HBE's grant award request. Recommendations were sought for improvement, and procedures for ongoing feedback were outlined. Ms. Kim Smith provided technology support.

The questions to solicit feedback are as follows:

1. Which sections of the risk assessment are unclear or confusing?
2. Are there any important risk areas currently missing from the form?
3. Are the risk categories (low/medium/high) meaningful and consistent?

Comments

BIE received comments through letters from the Hopi Tribal Chairman, the transition HBE Chair, open remarks during Tribal Consultation, and entries in the TEAMS chat.

Row Labels	Count of Received
Tribal Consultation Chat	28
Letter from the Chairman	3
Preliminary Comments Letter HBE	6
Tribal Consultation Open Comments	8

HBE Comments on BIE Risk Assessment of Hopi School System	13
Grand Total	58

HOPI TRIBAL LEADERS PROVIDING COMMENTS

1. Letter from the Hopi Tribal Chairman dated 10/17/2025.

- Timothy Nuvangyaoma

2. Letter from the Hopi Tribal Chairman dated 4/24/2026

- Lamar Keevama

3. Remarks during Tribal Consultation on 5/26/2026

- LeRoy N. Shingoitewa

HBE PROVIDING COMMENTS

1. Preliminary comment letter on risk assessment dated April 17, 2024.

- Ronya Talayumtewa-Peshlakai

2. Comments placed in Teams' Chat function during Tribal Consultation on May 26, 2026

- Alma Siquah
- Laurel Poleyestewa

3. Letter from HBE Chair on June 25, 2026

- Laurel Poleyestewa

HOPI COMMUNITY MEMBERS PROVIDING COMMENTS

1. Comments placed in Teams' Chat function during Tribal Consultation on May 26, 2026

- Anita Bahnimptewa

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Remarks during Tribal Consultation on May 26, 2026

- Zea Mays Tyrrell

2. Comments placed in Teams' Chat function during Tribal Consultation on May 26, 2026

- Marsha Leno
- Zea Mays Tyrrell

Comment Analysis

The Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist and the Financial Capability Questionnaire form comments are summarized below and are divided into the following subject matter groupings:

- **Substantive Change:** Comments that alter the form’s meaning, requirements, intent, or burden. Such changes require another Tribal Consultation.
- **Non-Substantive Change:** Comments that clarify but do not change the form’s meaning, requirements, intent, or burden. These minor adjustments do not require Tribal Consultation.
- **No Change/Technical Assistance:** Comments suggesting recipients may need extra instructions or guidance, without modifying the risk assessment.
- **No Change to the Risk Assessment:** Comments did not provide suggestions did not impact the risk assessment.

Row Labels	Count of Type of Comment
No Change to Risk Assessment	50
Non-Substantive Change to Risk Assessment	6
Substantive Change to Risk Assessment	2
Grand Total	58

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTANTIVE CHANGE REQUEST

HBE identified an error in the risk assessment form, noting that the “Medium” and “High” categories under certain questions contained identical descriptive language. While HBE agreed with the description for “Medium,” it recommended that the “High” category be revised to accurately reflect a higher level of risk. BIE reviewed the feedback and acknowledged the need for clearer distinction. Specifically, for question 2 (“Independent Audit”), the difference was already present: “can mitigate risk” for Medium and “cannot mitigate risk” for High. However, for question 3 (“Other Tool”), both categories stated “can mitigate risk,” resulting in no differentiation.

BIE responded by confirming it would correct the form so that the “High” risk category for question 3 reads “cannot mitigate risk,” ensuring proper distinction between Medium and High risk levels. BIE thanked HBE for highlighting the issue and clarified that this correction is an administrative, non-substantive change that does not impact the form’s purpose, requirements, or burden.

SUMMARY OF THE NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE REQUEST

- Clarification for Skipped Questions (#1 and #2): BIE will add the statement “A score of ‘0’ will be entered for this question if it is skipped” to questions #1 and #2 in the Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist, providing clear guidance when these items are not answered. Additional clarifications will be made to questions 2 and 3, including references to bureau/office and conditions consistent with the CFR.
- UEI vs. DUNS Number: BIE will add space for the UEI number on the form.
- Technical Assistance for Questionnaire: BIE will provide instructions in the Financial Capability Questionnaire to assist recipients with completion.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS THAT DID NOT IMPACT THE RISK ASSESSMENT, BUT ASSESSMENT, BUT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE RECIPIENT IN COMPLETING THE FORM

BIE received 15 comments that the HBE providing regarding technical assistance, deadlines, and procedural details related to the risk assessment and transition to the Hopi School System. The BIE will provide responses clarifying any changes to the risk assessment that would require additional consultation. BIE will provide the HBE the Financial Capability Questionnaire to complete. The HBE will determine the establishment date; however, BIE recommends the Hopi Tribe, HBE, and the community agree on a date for the Hopi School System. HBE should include all personnel under its oversight. Tribally controlled schools must answer questions about indirect cost rates, and BIE will provide instructions and technical assistance as needed. BIE requests responses to the risk assessment by June 30, 2026, with updated risk assessment documents delivered to HBE on June 26, 2026. BIE received the risk assessment from HBE on June 30, 2026.

BIE confirmed administrative training and technical guidance will be available, particularly for new administrators. The HBE is on track to take oversight of the school system on July 1, 2026, following completion of the risk assessment consultation. Recipients may request meetings for clarification or challenge special conditions, and BIE offers technical assistance and professional development resources for compliance improvement. Collaborative relationships with BIE staff are encouraged through proactive engagement and participation in available training. Additionally, recipients can request copies of their risk assessment or scoring rationale and may use due process protections, such as meetings with the Education Program Administrator, if they disagree with risk designations or special conditions.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS THAT DID NOT IMPACT THE RISK ASSESSMENT

BIE received 34 comments about factors influencing high-risk classification, frequency of reassessment, consideration of historical underfunding, technical assistance versus punitive

oversight, standardized scoring criteria, and the impact of Single Audit findings, corrective actions, governance structures, pass-through entity monitoring, documentation for internal controls, common mistakes, fraud risk distinction, SAM.gov data, balancing trust responsibilities, compliance weaknesses, barriers to self-determination, evaluation metrics for oversight, and safeguards against bias. Additionally, comments address whether lack of award history affects risk scoring, the separation of risk evaluation from TCSA approval, and agreement on the use of the provided Checklist. Despite the thoughtful nature of these questions and feedback, none resulted in substantive or non-substantive changes to the risk assessment form. As a result, the BIE determined that these inputs did not warrant modifications to the risk assessment instrument.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the BIE has demonstrated a commitment to the Tribal Consultation process by providing administrative clarity and effective collaboration by responding to feedback with targeted, non-substantive revisions to the Financial Assistance Risk Assessment Checklist. Through ongoing technical assistance, clear guidance, and accessible training, BIE supports recipients and stakeholders in meeting compliance requirements and navigating the transition process. While numerous comments were received, only clarifications and procedural improvements were necessary, ensuring the integrity and purpose of the risk assessment. Moving forward, continued engagement and proactive communication will foster successful implementation and support for the HBE and other recipients.