



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 13 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) invites you to provide input on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA was signed into law on December 10, 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act. The ESSA is scheduled to be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year.

The ESSA requires BIE, like all other state education agencies, to submit a "state plan." In its state plan, BIE will describe how it will implement the law, get a comprehensive picture of school success, provide support for struggling schools, offer better data for parents and communities, and develop a streamlined school improvement plan. Under Section 8007(2) of the ESSA, BIE is required to develop regulations for implementing a new accountability system, which is one element of the BIE state plan. This effort will be conducted via a negotiated rulemaking process. Nominations for the negotiated rulemaking committee (NRC) are being accepted via the website below:

<http://www.bie.edu/cs/groups/xbie/documents/text/idc2-042401.pdf>.

The consultation announced in this letter will focus on aspects *other than* the new BIE accountability system. Acting BIE Director, Ms. Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, looks forward to listening to tribes, families, teachers, administrators, and all others interested in our schools and students.

A series of tribal consultations on the BIE State plan is scheduled on October 12, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the 73rd Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians. This first round of consultations will focus on obtaining feedback on drafting of the BIE state plan. A future round of consultations is planned to address the terms of a BIE State plan once drafted with input from this first round of consultations, and may be coordinated with consultations on the draft rule on accountability written by the NRC. Detailed information on the state plan, including tribal consultations, background, activities, schedules, and locations will be posted on the BIE website at: <http://www.bie.edu>

The BIE's top priority is to ensure students attending BIE funded schools receive the quality education they deserve and are adequately prepared for college and careers. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and receiving your feedback on the BIE state plan for the education of students attending BIE funded schools.

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Roberts
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary –
Indian Affairs