

Bureau of Indian Education Reorganization Implementation Frequently Asked Questions for Schools

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) reorganization to implement the Blueprint for Reform and Secretarial Order #3334 was approved by Congress through the reprogramming process. The reform addresses the chronically low performing schools and poor financial management identified by the American Indian Education Study Group, various reports and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Major organizational changes will occur at the central level, along with the reorganization of the regional offices to match the school functions, and a decentralized structure to meet its State Education Agency responsibilities.

We have provided a list of common questions to support our schools. If you have additional questions, please contact us at (202) 208-6123.

All BIE-FUNDED SCHOOLS:

Our school currently receives technical assistance and support from an Education Line Office (ELO). Which Education Resource Center (ERC) are we assigned?

BIE's new ERC are posted on our website. The list provides a breakdown of all assigned schools to our ERCs. We also have a link to our revised directory providing additional contact information for questions.

What services will our schools receive immediately?

While the reorganization is underway, we recognize that some ERCs will not have staffing immediately available. As we staff our new ERCs, please contact Associate Deputy Directors (ADD) for assistance.

- Navajo Schools, ADD Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, (928) 871-5961/5932
- Bureau Operated Schools, ADD Tony Dearman (505) 563-5235/5264
- Tribally Controlled Schools, Acting ADD Rosie Davis (952) 851-5424/5427

When will the reorganization be complete and who is available to help me?

BIE will move as quickly as possible to place employees into newly aligned positions. We plan to begin advertising for open positions, select, and to fill positions for the ERCs immediately. To launch the reorganization process, we are holding a series of "all employee" meetings in person or by phone, starting February 11. The amount of time it will take to complete the transition will vary based on the need to relocate staff; however, we expect initial staff placements will start as early as the end of

March. In the meantime, if you need assistance, our ADDs will be available to answer questions and provide service. Their contact information is provided above.

What services will the new ERCs provide?

The ERCs will provide services tailored to each type of BIE-funded school. Your school will be assigned to an ERC that specializes in services for BIE-operated or Tribally-controlled schools. This realignment acknowledges the changing shape of the BIE school system and the differing operational needs of BIE-operated and Tribally-controlled schools.

In general, staff at the ERCs will have clear roles and responsibilities and will employ education specialist(s) to work directly with schools on assessments and school improvement plans. ERCs will also employ school improvement specialists to provide technical assistance beyond academic performance, such as grant services and others. Staff with expertise regarding Department of Education funded programs will also be available.

What qualifications will the staff have at the ERCs and how will our school engage with ERC staff?

The position descriptions of all ERC staff have been updated to reflect the new focus of the BIE in providing school improvement assistance. Whether through coordination or collaboration, the ERC will work with individual schools to find the most effective strategies to improve academic outcomes for our students.