

The Monthly Newsletter



Table of contents

Welcome

Featured article

News and updates

Upcoming Events

Spotlight

Tips and Tricks

Important Dates

Special Education Director's Welcome Message

Greetings from the BIE-DPA Special Education Program!

The DPA special education team have been part of the onsite fiscal and programmatic monitoring team and welcomed to schools selected for onsite monitoring this year. I had the pleasure of joining the monitoring team for the visit to Wingate High School. The best monitoring activity was interviewing students, parents and the school's special education staff. The students shared their goals to graduate from high school and further their opportunities. Some students shared they are interested in pursuing further education, while others plan to join training programs or the workforce and be employed when they graduate. It was wonderful to see parents sharing the same goals for their child and equally refreshing to hear directly from the students as they shared their future aspirations.

Thank you to the special education teachers and paraeducators for providing timely special education and related services to students in BIE-funded schools across the country. Have a great spring!

Dr. Eugene Thompson (Diné)
Supervisory Education Specialist



Featured Article:

School Spotlight – San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School



San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School is a Bureau Operated School serving students kindergarten through eighth grade in the Albuquerque ERC region. This month, members of the DPA visited San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School. We thank Principal Arlene Atencio for her ongoing partnership and thoughtful leadership. In the pictures below, we share some highlights from this visit. Thank you for the welcoming visit, Principal Atencio, and San Felipe Pueblo Thunderbirds!



Left to Right: Kim Troncosa, Rose Abeyta, Arlene Atencio and Barbara Medina



[Submit a School Story for an Upcoming Newsletter Spotlight](#)

We'd like to include celebrations, updates and success stories from BIE-funded schools. Take some time to consider highlighting a story or photos, with permission, from your school that can be included in an upcoming newsletter. Click the link above to submit a story, and a member of the team will be in touch with you.

News & Updates:

From the Division of Performance & Accountability, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Team



Save the Date!

The Bureau of Indian Education invites you to a school improvement training event. This opportunity is designed for teachers, school administrators, business managers, ERC staff, CAO staff and DPA staff. Engage in training and professional development in school leadership, data reporting and use, fiscal management, and school improvement.

Registration Coming Soon

Mesa, AZ | Albuquerque, NM
June 25-27, 2024 | **July 16-18, 2024**

**FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

**PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**INTERACTIVE DATA WORKSHOP**



Special Education Parent Survey Now Open

As part of each state's annual performance report submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, states are required to assess the percent of parents whose child

receives special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

To complete this requirement, BIE-DPA requests schools share a 10-question survey with all parents of enrolled students with disabilities receiving special education services annually. BIE-DPA continues to offer a paper and online format (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIEParentSurvey>) for parents to complete the survey and provide their important input.

A big thank you to the schools who have started or completed their special education parent surveys for the current year. As of this newsletter, more than 35 schools have submitted at least one completed survey for a parent of a student with a disability. View DPA's [chart tracking weekly submissions of the survey](#). For any questions regarding the survey, please contact [Melanie Star](#).

Update on Special Education Policies

The DPA Special Education Program staff are reviewing comments received during three Tribal consultations this past October. The next steps currently underway include the following:

- Identifying regulatory and non-regulatory issues
- Finalizing document (now through May 2024)
- Identifying timelines and tasks to support roll out including training (e.g., summer 2024 training)
- Dissemination to BIEfunded schools
- Initial Implementation (SY 2024-2025)

BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children

The next in-person BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children meeting is scheduled for April 25-26, 2024, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (MDT). This meeting is open to the public and can be accessed online or in person. The Mountain Daylight Time Zone will be used for this meeting. Topics covered during the April meeting are expected to include the following:

- DPA – Special Education Program updates
- Native American Student Information System Infinite Campus Update
- Indian School Equalization Program Training
- Federal Fiscal Grants Management/IDEA Part B Awards
- What is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973?
- Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs

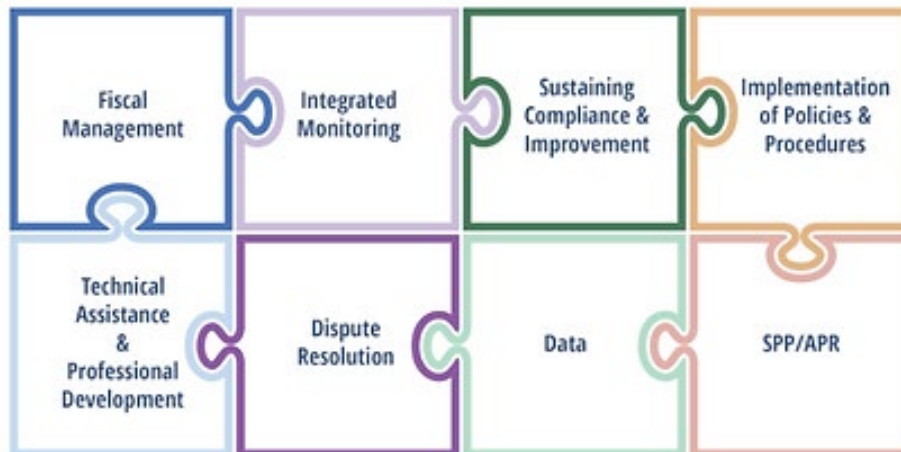
Registration is required. Please use this link to register in advance:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSfuyrqD4rGEQsjzXDBN2G1omKJwy09po>.

BIE's General Supervision Responsibility

BIE, like all state education agencies, must have a system of general supervision in place to monitor the implementation of IDEA. The BIE's General Supervision System is designed to support practices that improve academic achievement and functional outcomes for children with disabilities; to use multiple methods to identify and correct noncompliance; and to use a variety of mechanisms to encourage and support improvement; and to enforce compliance.

BIE's General Supervision System consists of eight components related to the implementation of IDEA. The components inform one another as well as the system as a whole. The components (data, dispute resolution, fiscal management, implementation of policies and procedures, integrated monitoring activities, State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report, sustaining compliance and improvement, technical assistance and professional development) are included in the visual below:



This month we look closely at one component, fiscal management. A state's fiscal management system includes mechanisms to provide oversight in the distribution of and use of funds according to federal requirements. Federal funds are used for improving results and outcomes for students with disabilities. For BIE-funded schools, the BIE, including representatives from school operations and the DPA, provides oversight with the use of funds. To support fiscal management, BIE utilizes multiple strategies with Bureau Operated and Tribally Controlled Schools, which include BIE's annual application for Part B funds, quarterly financial calls, on-site and virtual monitoring, and technical assistance on allowable use of IDEA funds.

The DPA IDEA Team revised the Part B application in hopes of making it more efficient for our schools. Starting the week of April 22, DPA will contact all BIE-funded schools to

schedule a time to present the material and to provide technical assistance with the application. For any questions regarding the SY 2024-2025 Part B application, please contact [Laura Tsosie](#).

Getting to Know Members of the DPA IDEA Team



Halito! I am Marcy Starr, but you may know me as Marcy Oliver. I am a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and grew up in Pocola, Oklahoma. I now live in Albuquerque with my beautiful wife, Nicki, and our five children. Our children are all adopted from foster care, and four are Navajo and one is Zuni. We are also ICWA preferred foster parents and regularly welcome other Native children in our home.

I have worked with children my whole life. I have a bachelor's degree with a major/minor in criminal justice, a major in psychology and a minor in sociology. I also have a master's degree in counseling psychology. I began my career as a therapist with the juvenile prison system in Texas and then worked as a counselor for the juvenile courts. I decided that I wanted to get to the children a little bit sooner, before they were incarcerated, so I became a special education teacher and began teaching at a runaway center before going to a public school where I taught students with emotional disturbance. I then went back to school for a before working as a school psychologist in the Dallas ISD. In this role, I did crisis intervention and 504 specialist work and served on the gang intervention taskforce. I currently work as an education specialist with IDEA in the Division of Performance and Accountability with the BIE where I have been for the last 12 years. My primary area of focus is dispute resolution.

Spotlight

Schools in the News



Swish – nothing but net! Double congratulations are in order to Navajo Prep for winning the 2024 New Mexico state championship for 3A basketball – both boys and girls teams took home the top prize. Making history for their school, the boys basketball team at Dennehotso Boarding also won their first championship. Congratulations, student-athletes and coaches, on their accomplishments!



Congratulations to Navajo Prep, winners of the Girls Class 3A State Title at the 2024 New Mexico State Basketball Championships.
#NativePreps #NavajoPrep #Navajo



Congratulations to Dennehotso Boarding School boys basketball team. Who won the boys Northern Arizona Interscholastic Conference Div II Basketball Championship. First ever NAIC championship banner for the school.
#NativePreps #Navajo



Tips and Tricks

Department of Education



[Teaching Cognitive and Metacognitive Strategies: What Teachers Need to Know](#) from the PROGRESS Center, one federal-funded technical assistance center, is a quick course that is a part of a series focused on instructional practices. Teachers, school leaders and other educators can benefit from this resource.

The Western Educational Equity Assistance Center is one of four federally funded equity assistance centers who provide technical assistance and training on equity issues related to desegregation, chronic absenteeism and more. One recent resource, *Indicators of High School Success: Improving Graduation Rates*, identifies strategies for data analysis and collaboration to improve graduation rates. View this [microcourse here](#).



LRP

BIE-DPA partners with LRP Publications to provide three valuable resources for teachers and staff at all BIE-funded schools. Recently, in early March, LRP representatives,

including our liaison, Kelly Whiting, joined educators across South Dakota during the South Dakota Special Education Conference held in Sioux Falls. Kelly was invited by the South Dakota Department of Education, which like BIE has a statewide subscription to [Special Education Connection](#). During this conference, Kelly interacted with staff from BIE-funded schools, including Crazy Horse School, Little Wound School, Marty Indian School, Crow Creek, Pierre Indian Learning Center, Pine Ridge and St. Francis Indian School. Thank you to the staff from schools across the region for providing feedback about the LRP resources, especially DirectSTEP eLearning.



The DirectSTEP eCourses are one option available at no charge for BIE-funded schools. This course explains best practices and the legal requirements for behavior management, autism, IDEA eligibility, IEPs, etc. These courses also teach educators how to handle critical education issues to obtain positive outcomes while

applying education laws to teaching and learning. If your staff need assistance, contact LRP training staff toll-free at 1-800-515-4577 ext 6515 or via email at directstep@lrp.com.

If you have questions, need more information, or would like to set up an orientation so you and your staff can learn more about these valuable resources, please contact [Kelly Whiting](#) or [Jennifer Davis](#).

NASIS

In addition to the recorded micro trainings below, BIE's NASIS team and specialists also have training opportunities routinely available for all BIE-funded schools. To learn more about their resources and trainings, please visit their landing page:

<https://www.bie.edu/landing-page/native-american-student-information-system-nasis>.

Recorded Events

NASIS Micro Training Series

- Session 1 – [Secondary Transition Components](#); Passcode: +s6iAmpN
- Session 2 – [Secondary Transition Components Continued](#); Passcode: \$s*QCW9X
- Session 3 – [NASIS Module IEP Editors](#); Passcode: *205YAKq
- Session 4 – [New Look IEP module changes](#); Passcode: @zOb4sw&
- Session 5 – [NASIS Infinite Campus IEP review Micro Training](#); Passcode: 01tSbwY%
- Session 6 – [IEP Module Team Meeting Participants Page](#); Passcode: C4bK8m.h
- Session 7 – [IEP Module Problem Solving](#); Passcode: +!!^V8HQ
- Session 8 – [IEP Module Open Discussion](#); Passcode: !bc2*2L&

Supporting Secondary Transition

Check out the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center's Explore Work website (<https://explore-work.com/>). If your school has students who are interested in exploring options post-high school, this resource might be for you! Use this tool to discover talents and jobs that might be a good fit, get experience and try out jobs, uncover education and training options, learn about self-advocacy, and get skills to help success at work and school. The training is available in two options: Guided guided Learning learning and self-guided learning.



Important Upcoming Due Dates

What	When	Where	For support or questions, reach out to
Parent Surveys	February – June 30, 2024	Parent surveys are completed either online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIEParentSurvey or returning a paper/pencil copy to the school.	Melanie Star
Initial Evaluations	February – June 30, 2024	DPA reports initial evaluation completion rates annually. To support this collection, DPA requests BIE-funded schools to complete this form for all initial evaluations completed between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.	Ronald Worst or your assigned Education Specialist
Summary of Performance	Spring 2024	Summary of Performance should be completed this spring before the student exits from high school.	Ronald Worst
IDEA Part B Application	June 30, 2024	SY 2024-2025 IDEA Part B School Application is due in Native Star.	Your assigned Education Specialist