



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 23 2018

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is beginning a new chapter to improve our education service delivery through a Strategic Direction (Direction). The Direction is a tool to transform BIE into the service-minded institution it should be. The Direction focuses BIE on instilling the values of excellence, focus, integrity, respect, and service throughout the Agency to ensure we provide our students a culturally relevant, high-quality education that prepares them with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to flourish in the opportunities of tomorrow.

I am pleased the Direction is based on the collaborative work of BIE staff, educators, Tribes, and other stakeholders across the country – those who understand the issues firsthand and have real solutions. The Direction reflects their work and input by incorporating a strong theory of action that focuses on achieving BIE's most essential goals.

These include strategic goals that ensure:

- All students will enter kindergarten academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to succeed in school;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing in a positive, safe, and culturally relevant learning environment;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to progress successfully through school and be prepared for postsecondary education and/or career opportunities;
- All students will graduate high school ready to think globally and succeed in postsecondary study and careers;
- All students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to lead their sovereign nations to a thriving future through self-determination; and
- All students will benefit from an education system that is effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable.

Taken together, these strategic goals represent a step forward for BIE. I am immensely grateful for the hard work of BIE staff, educators, Tribes, and stakeholders and their collective commitment to our students. The Direction provides a sound framework for improving student achievement; maximizing resources; providing targeted technical assistance to BIE-operated and Tribe-controlled schools; and establishing a means for supporting educators and staff while

improving oversight and accountability through performance management that will increase data-driven decision making.

While implementation is just beginning and there may be unanticipated challenges along the way, the Direction is the launch of a new era for BIE and equips the Agency with the tools necessary to address such barriers should they occur. Please know that BIE is committed to upholding our trust and treaty obligations to Indian Tribes through continuous improvement in how we serve you and your future generations. I encourage you to take time to review the Direction and corresponding consultation report as they detail our work with Indian Country in creating the Direction and highlight our process for improving education delivery for years to come.

The Direction is available at: <https://www.bie.edu/StrategicDirection/index.htm>. For further information about the Direction or if have any questions, please contact Mr. Tony Dearman, BIE Director, at (202) 208-6123.

Thank you for your commitment to Indian Country and improving BIE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Tahsuda".

John Tahsuda
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary –
Indian Affairs