



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

AUG 16 2018

Dear Tribal Leaders, Students, Parents, Staff, and Stakeholders:

From day one as your Secretary of the Interior, upholding the trust responsibility and supporting Tribal sovereignty have been my top priorities for Tribal communities. In my travels to Indian Country to meet with Tribal communities, I have heard, in the diversity of opinions, one common goal: to offer a world-class educational system for Native students.

Each day, the hardworking Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) teachers and staff strive toward that goal as they prepare our 48,000 students for a brighter future. But we need to complement these daily efforts with a vision for the future. I praise the leadership and staff of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and BIE for developing a Strategic Direction to take the BIE into 2023 on a trajectory toward excellence. The Strategic Direction is a plan that takes into account the expertise of parents, teachers, students, administrators, Tribal leadership, and Indian education advocates. I am grateful for the collective efforts of those who dedicated their time and input.

As your trustee, I am committed to supporting our collective goal for making the future for Native youth brighter and more prosperous. Together, we set the course to support generations of Native students from kindergarten to post-secondary education. I am pleased to share this Strategic Direction as a guide for meeting this great responsibility and look forward to witnessing the results of its implementation.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior