Education Department funds will go towards improving student reading, school performance and teacher quality starting in FY 2004

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WASHINGTON – Secretary Gale Norton and Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs David W. Anderson today announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been awarded $32.4 million in three grants from the U.S. Department of Education to improve student reading, school performance and teacher quality in BIA-funded schools under President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Starting this year, over 12,000 students will benefit from funds to help them improve their academic performance and support their institutions' efforts to achieve adequate yearly progress as stipulated by the act.

"The No Child Left Behind Act is the president's commitment that all federally funded schools must provide students with a quality education," Norton said. "BIA students and parents can expect that our schools also will carry forward that vision."

"I can think of no better initiatives in our schools than the Reading First program to instill a love of reading in the youngest students, the Improving Basics program for those schools working hard to meet their progress goals and the Improving Teacher Quality program to challenge our teachers to become the best they can be," Anderson said. "Through these programs, our schools now have a chance to realize President Bush's vision for themselves and their students."

Last November, the BIA was awarded $30.4 million for a six-year grant under the Reading First program, the centerpiece of President Bush's historic education reform law, to use scientifically proven instruction methods to improve reading proficiency by BIA students in grades K-3. The Reading First program reflects the president's emphasis on the importance of reading to student academic achievement.

Today, the BIA is releasing the first installments of these funds to 22 eligible schools under three-year subgrants. They can apply again with other schools during a second round of the competitive process for a shot at another three-year funding award. In fiscal year 2004, BIA funded schools will receive Reading First subgrants ranging from $97,170 to $417,000 depending on a school's needs, number of students served and design of its reading program.

In addition, the BIA was awarded $1.5 million under Title I, Part A of the act to provide subgrants for technical assistance and training to schools in need of improvement. In fiscal year 2004, at least 21 BIA-funded schools will receive Improving Basics subgrants of up to $115,143 to help them meet student academic achievement standards, assist teachers to enable low-performing students to meet challenging standards, provide services to children with limited English proficiency or disabilities, help meet highly qualified teacher requirements and to encourage greater parent involvement and professional development.

The No Child Left Behind Act supports having highly qualified teachers in the classroom as essential to increasing student academic achievement. Under Title II, Part A of the act, the BIA has received $359,054 to provide Improving Teacher Quality subgrants to aid schools in teacher development and mentoring. In fiscal year 2004, at least 16 schools will receive subgrants of up to $30,000 with funding amounts based on student population.

The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs has responsibility for fulfilling the department's trust responsibilities to individual and tribal trust beneficiaries, as well as promoting tribal self-determination, self-governance and economic development for the nation's 562 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their 1.8 million members.

The Assistant Secretary also oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the 180-year old agency that provides services to individual American Indians and Alaska Natives from the federally recognized tribes, and the BIA school system. The school system serves approximately 48,000 American Indian children in 184 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools located on or near 63 reservations in 23 states. In school year 2002-2003, the BIA directly operated one-third of these schools and the remaining two-thirds were tribally operated under BIA contracts or grants.

Note to Editors: Lists of funded schools accompany this press release and may be viewed via the Department's website at www.doi.gov.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

TITLE I, PART A, IMPROVING BASIC PROGRAMS

FY 2004 BIA SUBGRANT RECIPIENTS

SCHOOL	LOCATION	AMOUNT
Cibecue Community School	Cibecue, Ariz	$115,143
Hunters Point Boarding School	St. Michaels, Ariz.	$115,143
Nazlini Community School	Ganado, Ariz.	$115,143
Pueblo Pintado Community School	Cuba, N.M.	$115,143
Rock Creek Grant School	Bullhead, S.D.	$115,143
Black Mesa Community School	Black Mesa, Ariz.	$115,000
Chilchinbeto Community School	Chilchinbeto, Ariz.	$115,000
Aneth Community School	Montezuma Creek, Utah	$ 97,296
American Horse School	Allen, S.D.	$ 50,000
Coeur d'Alene Tribal School	Coeur d' Alene Reservation, Idaho	$ 50,000
Cottonwood Day School	Chinle, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Gila Crossing Community School	Laveen, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Kaibeto Boarding School	Kaibeto, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Kayenta Community School	Kayenta, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Lukachukai Community School	Lukachukai, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Lummi Tribal School	Bellingham, Wash.	$ 50,000
Pyramid Lake High School	Nixon, Nev.	$ 50,000

Shoshone-Bannock Jr./High School	Fort Hall, Idaho	$ 50,000
T’iis Nazbas Community School	TeecNosPos, Ariz.	$ 50,000
Twin Buttes Day School	Halliday, N.D.	$ 50,000
Te Tsu Geh Oweenge Day School	Tesuque, N.M.	$ 50,000
Turtle Mountain Elementary	Belcourt, N.D.	$ 417,000
Chief Leschi School	Puyallup, Wash.	$ 250,000
Greasewood Springs Community School	Greasewood Springs, Ariz.	$ 212,000
Kayenta Community School	Kayenta, Ariz.	$ 199,000
Chinle Boarding School	Chinle, Ariz.	$ 198,000
Lukachukai Community School	Lukachukai, Ariz.	$ 183,800
Taos Day School	Taos, N.M.	$ 166,000
Lower Brule Day School	Lower Brule, S.D.	$ 165,525
Indian Island School	Old Town, Maine	$ 160,500
Dunseith Day School	Dunseith, N.D.	$ 150,000
Coeur d’Alene Tribal School	Coeur d’ Alene Reservation, Idaho	$ 149,600
Nay-Ah-Shing School	Onamia, Minn.	$ 144,500
Jemez Day School	Jemez Pueblo, N.M.	$ 142,000
Alamo Navajo School	Alamo Community, N.M.	$ 140,000
Aneth Community School	Montezuma Creek, Utah	$ 135,800
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa School	Hayward, Wisc	$ 127,700
Black Mesa Community School	Black Mesa, Ariz.	$ 125,000
Pinon Community School	Pinon, Ariz.	$ 124,500
Santa Clara Day School	Santa Clara Pueblo, N.M.	$ 124,000
Chilchinbeto Community School	Chilchinbeto, Ariz.	$ 122,000
Rough Rock Community School	Rough Rock, Ariz.	$ 109,500
Kaibeto Boarding School	Kaibeto, Ariz.	$ 97,170
Chief Leschi School	Puyallup, Wash.	$ 30,000
Chinle Boarding School	Chinle, Ariz.	$ 30,000
Kayenta Community School	Kayenta, Ariz.	$ 30,000
Sherman Indian High School	Riverside, Calif.	$ 30,000
Alamo Navajo School	Alamo Community, N.M.	$ 29,050
American Horse School	Allen, S.D.	$ 25,000
Lummi Tribal School	Bellingham, Wash.	$ 25,000
Pueblo Pintado Community School	Cuba, N.M.	$ 25,000
Rocky Ridge Boarding School	Kykotsmovi, Ariz.	$ 25,000
Tohaali Community School	Newcomb, N.M.	$ 25,000
Wide Ruins Community School	Chambers, Ariz.	$ 25,000
Northern Cheyenne Tribal School	Busby, Mont.	$ 21,600
Black Mesa Community School	Black Mesa, Ariz.	$ 20,000
Coeur d’Alene Tribal School	Coeur d’ Alene Reservation, Idaho	$ 20,000
Lukachukai Community School	Lukachukai, Ariz.	$ 20,000

Two Eagle River School	Pablo, Mont.	$ 20,000