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The Department or the Interior today announced the award of a $331,445 contract for construction or new dormitory facilities at Magdalena, New Mexico, that will make it possible for 128 Navajo children from the surrounding area to attend the local public schools.

Some of the children to be accommodated in the new dormitory are now enrolled in the nearby Indian Bureau boarding school at Alamo. Others currently living in Bureau facilities at the Albuquerque Indian School will be brought closer to home. Some will be able to attend school for the first time with the completion of the new facilities.

The project consists of a one-story building that will contain not only sleeping quarters but kitchen and dining facilities. The children, ranging in age from 6 to 16, will attend the Magdalena public schools under arrangements that have been worked out with the local school board.

The successful bidder was Taylor and Medley Construction Company of Albuquerque. Fourteen higher bids were received ranging from $332,888 to $386,241.