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Award of a $2,988,988 contract for construction of a complete new Navajo Indian boarding school for 672 pupils at Crownpoint, New Mexico, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract calls for the construction of a 23-clsssroom school with library and multipurpose room, four 168-pupil dormitories, a 672-pupil kitchen and dining room; 68 employees' quarters, a storage and maintenance shop, a fire station, and the development of a complete utility system.

These new facilities, to be constructed at a site approximately three-fourths of a mile from the existing boarding school at Crownpoint, will provide educational opportunity for the 450 pupils now enrolled in the present school and an additional 222 pupils not now in school. The existing Bureau school facilities at the old site have been condemned and will be demolished when the new facilities are completed.

The successful bidder was George A. Rutherford, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Six higher bids, ranging from $3,087,900 to $3,298,000 were received. One other bid was disregarded because an error was made in the submission.