



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Director, BIE

Date: 16 March 2020

To: School Leaders, BIE-Funded Schools
From: Tony L. Dearman, Director
Subject: BIE-Funded School Resumption of Activities Guidance Memorandum

1. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding the resumption of regular activities at a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded school. This guidance is specific to BIE and is not intended to apply to existing Department of the Interior (DOI) or Indian Affairs (IA) policies and guidance.

2. Scope¹

This guidance applies to all BIE-funded school locations.

3. Guidelines

The following guidelines shall be followed:

- a. The school leader (i.e. superintendent or principal) will notify their respective Education Program Administrator (EPA) of their plan to resume activities that reflects local conditions that match that of tribal, local and/or state officials. The EPA will use the BIE chain of command to communicate with their appropriate supervisors and BIE School Operations Division point of contact to assist the school.
- b. In consultation with the local Public Health Official (PHO) and BIE School Operations Division, the school leader may consider if resumption of school activities and readmission of students is warranted and safe based on the risk level within the specific community and/or if satisfactory mitigation requirements were performed and approved.
- c. School representatives are responsible for outreach to parents/guardians of each student to make notification of the resumption of school activities and readmission of students. The school leader will use BIE's communication protocol to outreach to

¹ Authorities for this guidance can be found at 25 U.S.C. § 2001(d)(2)(B); 20 U.S.C § 2006(a); 130 DM 8.

- students, parents, teachers, staff, and the community. The appropriate BIE Associate Deputy Director (ADD) will contact the affected tribe(s).
- d. School leaders will coordinate with their local PHO and BIE School Operations Division point of contact to ensure the school site is safe for the readmission of students and staff. Bureau-operated schools (BOS) should work with BIE Human Resources to ensure school staff, contractors, and federal partners receive appropriate notifications of personnel matters.
 - e. School leaders will use the readmission criteria to determine the necessary means for completing the academic school year and required number of hours as described in the March 14, 2020 BIE-Funded School Closure Guidance Memorandum.
 - f. It is recommended school leaders, in coordination with their local PHO and tribal communities, determine and provide local guidance regarding extracurricular group activities and large scale events.
 - g. If subsequent cases of COVID-19 are identified among students or staff upon resumption of activities, the school leaders will follow the protocol and procedures outlined in the March 14, 2020 BIE-Funded School Closure Guidance Memorandum to ensure the safety of students, staff and the community.
 - h. At the direction of the Secretary, a court of competent jurisdiction or any other governing authority, BIE reserves the right to amend this guidance document. In such an event, BIE will timely notify all affected entities.

4. Approval


Tony L. Dearman, Director

4-16-20
Date