



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 01 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) values Tribal Leader and stakeholder input into the draft School Reopening Plan (Plan) to safely reopen school sites for the 2020-2021 school year (SY). As such, in addition to the consultation sessions on the Plan scheduled for July 9, 2020 and July 10, 2020, BIE plans to conduct a formal consultation session to inform the development of the Plan, specifically in regards to Off Reservation Boarding Schools (ORBS) due to their unique role in the BIE system.

Similar to the July 9th and 10th consultation sessions, the ORBS consultation session on July 14 will be conducted virtually by webinar to minimize travel.

The Plan is available for review <https://www.bia.gov/covid-19/school-reopening>. BIE goals for the Plan include:

- Provide reopening directives to BIE-operated schools for developing individual school site reopening plans with adequate time before SY 2020-2021.
- Provide reopening guidance to Bureau-funded schools, including Tribally-controlled schools, who may utilize the Plan's recommendations to support their individual school site reopening plans.
- Serve as structural guidance for formal government-to-government Tribal consultation as well as separate engagement events with pertinent union organizations, such as the Federation of Indian Service Employees (FISE), and national organizations like the National Indian Education Association (NIEA).

The intended purpose of the Tribal consultation and stakeholder engagement is to ensure that BIE is meeting the needs of its students, schools, and Tribal communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic recovery.

Consultation Schedule

<u>FOR:</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>(EDT)</u>	<u>TO JOIN WEBINAR:</u>
Tribal Leaders and Public	July 14, 2020	3 – 5 p.m. ET	Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodO2tqDkuHdCGcQTFK4cfsafKmUNRDd5P After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The BIE will accept both oral and written comments. Written comments may be emailed to consultation@bia.gov or by postal mail to Bureau of Indian Education, Juanita Mendoza, 1849 C Street NW MIB-3612, Washington, DC 20240. Comments must be received on or before July 29, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Questions regarding the Tribal consultations may be directed to Juanita Mendoza, Special Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Indian Education; phone (202) 208-3559 or email Juanita.Mendoza@bie.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tara Sweeney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs