



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) welcomes Tribal leadership and education stakeholders to attend an informational virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). The BIE leadership will share plans for distribution of its Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to schools to support the COVID-19 Pandemic recovery.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law Public Law 116-136, the CARES Act, which provides two appropriations for the BIE totaling \$222 million. The CARES Act directly appropriated \$69 million to BIE, and through the Department of Education's (ED) Stabilization Fund, provided BIE an additional appropriation of \$153 million.

The funding will be distributed using the existing formula that is based on student counts, to both Tribal colleges and universities and K-12 schools. Funds should target and focus on individual student needs related to mental health and safety, staff training, and school information technology (IT) investment needs. The funding will also help address school's needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, improve student support, and develop mid-to-long term school infrastructure and IT capacity.

Additional details on funding distribution will be provided during the virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. EST. Please register in advance at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdOGupjooG9TGVM1BGAA03gB55oGJoQiL>

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Providing schools with the flexibility to support their unique reopening needs is critical for ensuring a safe and responsive return to operations. Like Indian Country, schools are as diverse in needs as each Tribe.

We are committed to continuing to work with each school to address their specific conditions while respecting their cultural diversities.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs